# LPA DISTRICT 11 – NEWSCLIPS VOL. 3 1965-1973

S1103

S1103

# District 11 – Brief History

Little People of America, LPA, was founded in Reno, Nevada, in 1957.

Twenty individuals responded to Billy Barty's invitation to gather and discuss the formation of an organization to address issues facing people with short stature. At that meeting Billy Barty, California, was elected the first President of LPA and Dan Turner, South Carolina, was elected Vice President, elect.

The second national convention of LPA was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Dan Turner was then President. A governance proposal was introduced and accepted by the membership in attendance. The governance proposal included a National Leadership of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and 11 District Directors who would serve as the Board of Directors. Each District Director was also responsible for recruiting members and organizing events and activities within the states served by each district.

District 11 included the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, a territory covering 1,080,182 sq. miles. The first Director was Lloyd King, a barber who lived in the Tacoma area, and the Secretary was Shirley Berg, of Birkenfeld, Oregon.

# District 11 Newsclips 1961 – 1976

## Persons, Events, Places

1961

Alexander, Joe
Anderson, Mrs Albert
Barty, Billy
Barty, shirley
Berg, Shirley
Birkenfeld, Oregon
Bradshaw, Tom
Brandisma, Evelyn
Brooks, Wally
Desart, Allen
Furlong, Emma
Gant, Muriel
Gant, Vivian
Gossage, Willis
Groeneveld, Frieda
Johnson, Waino & Lillie
King, Lloyd
Kitchens, Lee
McDonald, Ken
Nichols, Kenneth
Olllis, Margaret
Owen, Agnes
Reed, Stevie
Sutton, Mrs M. J.
Trapp, Joel
Warr, Earl
Wennes, Alice
Ziska, Dallas & Martha

1962

Barty, Billy
Berg, Shirley
Brooks, Wally
Carr, Larry
Groeneveld, Frieda
Reed, Stevie

1963

Albough, Bill
Brooks, Mr. and Mrs
Daly, Louise
Groenveld, Frieda
Haywar, Tom

1964

Berg, Shirley
Bradshaw, Tom
Brooks, Wally
Darrington, Wash
Furlong, Emma
Gant, Vivian
Groenveld, Frieda
Owen, Agnes
Pemble, Penny
Reed, Stevie

1965

]Kelly, Faye
Albough, Bill
Berg, Shirley
Bradshaw, Tom
Carr, Larry
Curtis, Delores
Furlong, Emma
Gant, Muriel
Gant, Vivian
Groenveld, Frieda
Hayward, Tom
Huizenga, Buck
Lynnwood, Wash
Maren, Jerry
McLeod, Richard
Pemble, Penny

1966

1966

Alexander, Joe
Barta, Mrs Thomas
Bartolotti, Karen
Berg, Shirley
Gant, Vivian
Groenveld, Frieda
Hood Canal, Wash
Leonard, Lingle
Lynnwood, Wash
McLeod, Richard
Megenity, Jim
Myers, Eleanor
Newberg, Oregon
Owen, Agnes
Pemble, Penny
Reed, Stevie
Scharrer, Louis R.
Vermillion, Jo Lynn

1967

Albrecht, Angie
Alexander, Joe & Martha
Barty, Billy
Belanger, Clark
Berg, Shirley
Bertolotti, Karen
Birkenfeld, Oregon
Bradford, David
Bradford, Randy
Bradford, B.J.
Furlong, Emma
Groenveld, Frieda
Harris, Sandra
Henderson, Tom
Hollywood, Calif
Hubof, Robert
Kitchens, Lee and Mary
Longview, Wash
Owen, Agnes
Perfetti, Donna
Reckendorf, Frank and Lisa
Reckendorf, Peter
Reed, Stevie
Roethle, Susan
Rossitto, George
Shaw, Genevieve
Silla, Felix
Spokane, Wash
Steele, Gracie & Henry
Street, Henry & Gracie
Thomas, Lydia
Van Loo, Mardi
VanLoo, Gloria
Vining, Fern
Vining, Ralph
Wade, Mimi

1968

Albrecht, Angie
Alexander, Joe
Alexander, Marth
Baltimore, Maryland
Barty, Billy
Berg, Linda
Carr, Mr and Mrs Larry
Carter, Sid
Corvallis, Oregon
Erdman, Harold
Gehrman, Art
Goldendale, Wash
Groenveld, Frieda
Harris, Doyle
Howard, Darin
Howard, Jody
Hubof, Robert
Kuhlman, Hank
Kuhlman, Kayla
McLeod, Richard
Pemble, Penny
Poulsbo, Wash
Street, Henry & Gracie
Vinning, Fern

1969

Albough, Bill & Marie
Berg, Linda
Groenveld, Frieda
Harris, Doyle
Lee, Darin
Lee, Judy
Lindholm, Grant
Minneapolis, Minn
Olympia, Wash
Pullman, Wash
Reckendorf, Karel
Reckendorf, Lisa
Reckendorf, Peter
Ronning, Jill

1970

Alexander, Joe
Barta, Mary
Bedow, Charles
Coeur d' Alene, Idaho
Corbin, Barbara
Eley, Mary Beth
Groenveld, Frieda
Hubof, Robert
Kuhlman, Kayla
Lee, Mrs Robert
Malecki, James
Olympia, Wash
Pemble, Penny
Pocock, Charles
Portland, OR
Reckendorf, Lisa
Reckendorf, Peter & Karel
Reckendorf, Peter and Karel
Tacoma, Wash
Vining, Fern
Whorton, Sharon
Zellman, Marilyn

1971

Alexander, Martha
Scharrer, Louis R.
Shaw, Evan
Van Loo, Gloria

Other Districts (OD)

1962

Barty, Billy and Shirley
Carlino, Nino & Maryjane

1963

Binion, Dennis
Kitchens, Lee and Mary
Kitchens, Sandra
Polston, Phyllis
Warr, Earl

1964

Alden, Mrs Maurice
Bourassa, Alice
Brock, Mrs, Norman
Brock, Norman
Brower, Bob & Marcella
Hughes, Clarence
Phoenix, Arizona
Taylor, Mrs. Danny
Waddel, Mr & Mrs Fred
Warr, Earl
Wilcoxson, Hazel
Willer, David

1965

Baehm, George
Bakersfield, Calif
Barty, Billy
Bedow, Charles
Bedow, Sallie
Brown Kenneth
Dee, Frank
District 12
Dolinajek, Paul
Dunn, Michael
Gloucheter, N.J.
Helassie, Saile
Hinkson, Bob
Hoppert, Harriet
Hubof,Robert
Human Growth Hormone
Jackie, Irish
Jacobs, Marshall & Bobby
Kitchens, Lee
Mikos, Anne
Moore, Marcia
Ostrow, Eleanor
Perryman, Mary Belle
Riley, Harold
Schuster, Kathy
Spector, Robert
Welbes, Ralph
White, Alan
Wiliams, Ernel & Herbert

1967

Hoppert, Harriet
Human Growth Hormone
Kling, Stevie
Stickney, Al

1968

Dunn, Michael
Genetics
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Kitchens, Lee
McKusick, Dr. Victor
Moore Clinic
National Pituitary Agency
Pentorn, Phyllis
Spector, Robert

1969

Berg, Linda
Burgin, Robert
East, Bpb
Hagen, Jill
Hagen, Mr. & Mrs. James
Rasa, Gerald
Stickney, Harriet

1970

Barty, Billy
Boursse, Andre
Stickney, Al
Strange, Carolyn

1971

Brooks, Wally

1972

Alexander, Joe and Martha
Billy Barty
Brooks, Wally
Burley, Idaho
Chicago, Illinois
Hall, Dr. Judy
Howard, Mrs Wally
Howard, Polly & Sandy
McKusick, Dr. Victor
Myers, Jennie and Lyle
Siebens, Dr. Arthur
Spraker, Mrs Jack
Stickney, Al & Harriet

1973

Genetic Counseling
Hall, Dr. Judy
Spraker, Barbara & Jack
Mezaros, Mihaly
Brooks, Wally

Pacheco, Sergio

1976

Beckman, John

Denny's Restraunt

# Parade

Seattle Post-Intelligencer
THE QUALITY NEWSPAPER OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST

A PARADE MEDICAL REPORT ON THE MIRACLE GROWTH HORMONE:

## WE CAN END DWARFISM!

## THIS BOY IS A DWARF

by LLOYD SHEARER

1965

# WE CAN END DWARFISM!

## The miracle hormone—HGH—makes little people grow

by LLOYD SHEARER

Nobody knows for sure, but there are an estimated 25,000 dwarfs of all types in the U.S.

By arbitrary definition a dwarf is any undersized person 4-feet-10 inches or less in height.

Many of these undersized people—an estimated 7,000—are known as hypopituitary dwarfs. Their height-shortage is caused by a dysfunction of the pituitary gland.

The pituitary gland is a small red organ the size of a pea. It is located in the middle of the skull at about the level of the ears. It manufactures hormones, chemicals secreted into the blood stream, which regulate growth.

Hypo (a prefix meaning "too little") pituitary dwarfs have pituitary glands which secrete little or no HGH—human growth hormone.

The result is that children born with this deficiency never achieve normal height, which in this country now averages out to 5-feet-8.2 inches for men and 5-feet-3 inches for women. Instead, they become dwarfs.

Take our cover boy. He is 17 years old, yet only the size of a normal 9-year-old. Two years ago, before he began taking shots of HGH, he was a hypopituitary dwarf less than 4 feet tall. Today, he is 4-feet-5. If he can get enough human growth hormone, he will probably end up 5 feet or taller.

Harold Riley is a junior at Grant Community High School in Ingleside, Ill. His health and intelligence are top-grade. His father, a deceased bosun's mate in the Navy, was 6-feet-1. His mother is 5-feet-7. His brother is 6-feet-1, his two sisters 5-feet-6, 5-feet-7.

Harold's story is the story of thousands of these hypopituitary children. When born their weight is normal. They grow and develop at the normal rate until some period between age 1 and age 3. Then they begin to lag behind in height and bone maturation.

### NEED IS GREAT

According to Dr. William Latimer of the National Pituitary Agency in Baltimore there are at least 10,000 hypopituitary children in the U.S. in need of human growth hormone, the supply of which is woefully inadequate to meet the demand.

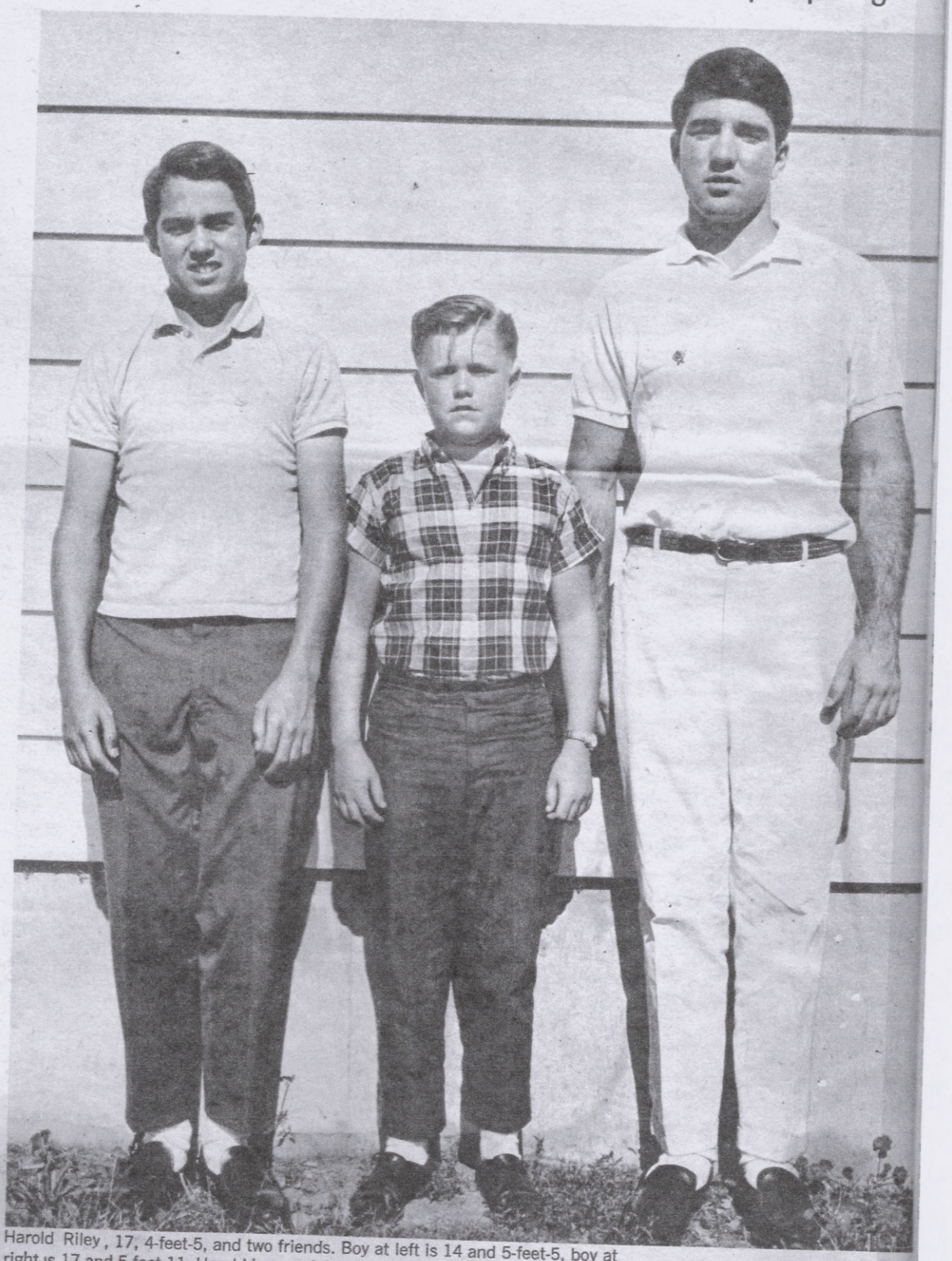
Unfortunately, the only source at present of human growth hormone is pituitary glands obtained through autopsies.

It cannot be manufactured synthetically, not as yet. And all attempts to use animal hormones as a substitute have been unsuccessful to date.

We can help thousands of dwarfed American children grow to normal height by collecting and contributing human pituitary glands to the National Pituitary Agency, an organization formed in 1963 with the sponsorship of the College of American Pathologists, the National Institutes of Health, and many of the nation's leading endocrinologists.

The National Pituitary Agency extracts the human growth hormone from the pituitary glands, distributes it to doctors, research centers, and parents in the research program who inject their own undersized offspring.

The Agency has three purposes: (1) To increase the number of pituitaries collected in this country. Ap-



Harold Riley, 17, 4-feet-5, and two friends. Boy at left is 14 and 5-feet-5, boy at right is 17 and 5-feet-11. Harold is one of the lucky "little people" now being treated with human growth hormone, has grown more than 5 inches in the last two years.

proximately 1,500,000 people died in the U.S. last year, but only 50,000 pituitaries were collected. What a tremendous waste! (2) To promote basic and clinical studies with human growth hormone, to make it available to all investigators as soon as possible and to make the hormone available to all the children who need it for growth. (3) To eliminate the duplication of effort in collecting pituitaries, to channel it all through one agency.

Would you like to help?

There are two major ways: (1) You can will your pituitary gland or talk a friend or relative into willing his to the National Pituitary Agency, 1900 McElderry Street, Baltimore, Md. 21205. Write for its simple 3-line form. By so doing you or your relative will make a positive contribution to medical science and clinical research after death.

(2) You can write the Agency and offer your services as a lay volunteer to call upon pathologists in your local neighborhood hospitals and enlist their help in contributing pituitary glands. The Agency has literature which tells you how to go about the job, and its officials will save you time and energy by directing you away from those hospitals already collecting and contributing glands.

For thousands of men and women with spare time on their hands, for persons who would like to perform a meaningful and humanitarian job, this is indeed an opportunity.

## SHORT SUPPLY

About 4 milligrams of human growth hormone can be obtained from a single pituitary gland, and that's less than enough for one week's treatment for one child —so you can see, every gland is desperately needed.

Right now the National Pituitary Agency in a process which is lengthy and complicated, has extracted enough HGH to place only 100 children under long-term investigative therapy. And yet in so many cases, dwarfs injected with the hormone, have spurted as much as 4 inches in 4 months.

Dr. Solomon Kaplan, a leading pediatrician and endocrinologist currently researching at the California Institute of Technology, says: "There is no doubt about it. If we had enough HGH, we could pretty nearly eradicate hypopituitary dwarfism not only in this country but around the world, because this stuff works effectively."

Only a few weeks ago the Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, Calif., revealed how one of its physicians had dramatically changed the life and future of Virgil Anderson, now 23.

When Virgil first reported to the clinic, he was almost 16 years old, measured 4-feet-4, was way behind in his sexual development. Treated with a combination of human growth hormone and testosterone, the boy grew 11 inches in 4½ years, now leads a normal life, works for his dad in San Diego.

For every case of dwarfism medicine has cured, there are a thousand it hasn't, largely because the supply of HGH has been so rare ever since 1956 when Dr. Choh Hao Li of the University of California first isolated the hormone.

Only the parents of an abnormal child can truly feel and sympathetically vibrate to the waves of agony, pain, and supersensitivity of a child who is not like other children. Such parents will do almost anything to get a supply of human growth hormone.

Elizabeth Riley, mother of our cover boy, is a case in point. Week after week she drives across northern Illinois, calls on hospital pathologists within a 50-mile area, talks to them and their *dieners* (*Diener* is an old German term meaning "helper") tries to enlist them in the cause of collecting pituitaries.

"I tell them," she explains, "the story of my son, how without their help he faces a lifetime of handicaps and limited opportunities. After all, the boy who's not 5 feet tall is barred from so many occupations, to say nothing of the very limited social life he must lead. They're medical men, and they're very understanding, but in many cases, they're limited, because lots of people won't give an autopsy consent; next of kin are funny about it, and autopsies are the only means we have of getting pituitary glands."

An attractive blonde widow in her early 40's, Elizabeth Riley says she didn't realize anything was wrong with Harold's growth pattern until he was 6 years old.

"I'd had three other children," she points out, "and I figured Harold was just a late starter. But one evening when I was putting his clothes away, it suddenly hit me. Harold was still wearing size 4 clothes. He'd been wearing the same size for almost three years. I knew this wasn't normal, and I quickly told my husband.

"We decided to take him next morning to the doctor at the Great Lakes Naval Station. My husband was in the Navy at the time. The Navy doctor examined Harold, who was then just a little taller than 3 feet, and said, 'I'm sorry. Nothing can be done for the boy.'

"I refused to give up," Mrs. Riley continues, "and a little while later I took him to another doctor. He was a pediatrician, also a Navy doctor. He referred us to another doctor who took a raft of tests. They measured Harold's head, his thyroid. They took blood samples, urine samples. He was perfectly normal in every respect. The only thing was this deficiency in the pituitary gland. No growth hormone.

Dr. Solomon Kaplan, chief of the Division of Endocrinology at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and one of the leading authorities on growth, discusses subject with two 14-year-olds.

"It looked very much as if nothing could be done for the boy, that Harold would never grow very much beyond 3½ or 4 feet, and I don't have to tell you, it was heart-shattering. He's such a sweet, good-looking boy.

"How does a mother tell a child what tortures lie ahead? I couldn't. I just couldn't. I couldn't say, 'Look, son. It's no fault of yours, but from here on in, you're not going to grow very much. You're going, you're going to be a dwarf.' I just kept hoping year after year that science would find a way. I just kept going to doctors, hoping against hope."

From the time he was 6 until he was 14, little Harold Riley went off to school, attended classes, played games, heard himself called Shorty, Shrimp, Pee-Wee, Little-Bit, a variety of nicknames born of his short stature. He says now, "I'm used to it, but all the same I wish I was like the other guys. I just don't like being different. It makes a fellow feel he doesn't quite belong, that he's not as good. I try not to think about it."

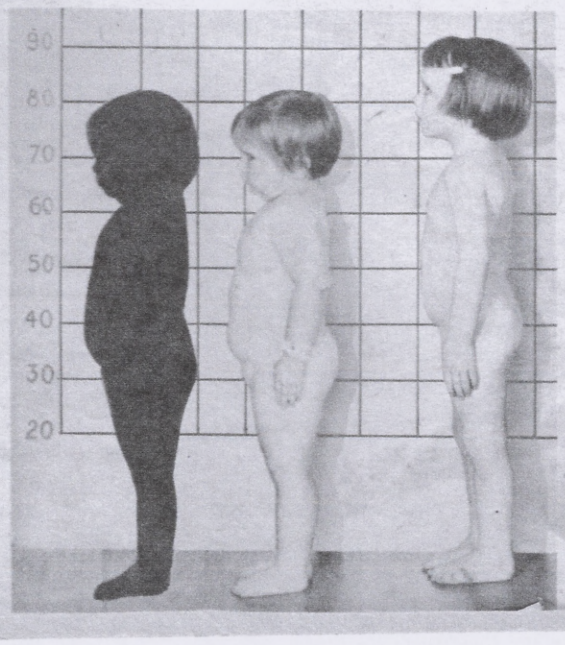
Three years ago the Rileys were introduced to a Dr. West, again at Great Lakes Naval, who explained to them that a human growth hormone had been isolated in 1956, that there were only very small amounts of it. He said he had a friend who worked for the government at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. He offered to write his friend, Dr. Barter, on behalf of Harold Riley.

"I can't tell you," says Mrs. Riley, "how happy we were when we got a letter from Dr. Barter, saying he would see Harold. I had previously heard about the hormone. In fact, the Navy contacted a doctor in Chicago who said he'd try and get us some, but he couldn't. So when that letter came from Bethesda, we were overjoyed.

"A year ago this past January, Harold started getting HGH treatments. He was 48 inches tall. He's now 53. In two years he's gone from size 8 to size 12 in clothing. But several months ago they ran out of hormone, and Harold stopped growing.

"If we can just get a steady supply of it, he stands a very good chance of growing another 8, 10, maybe

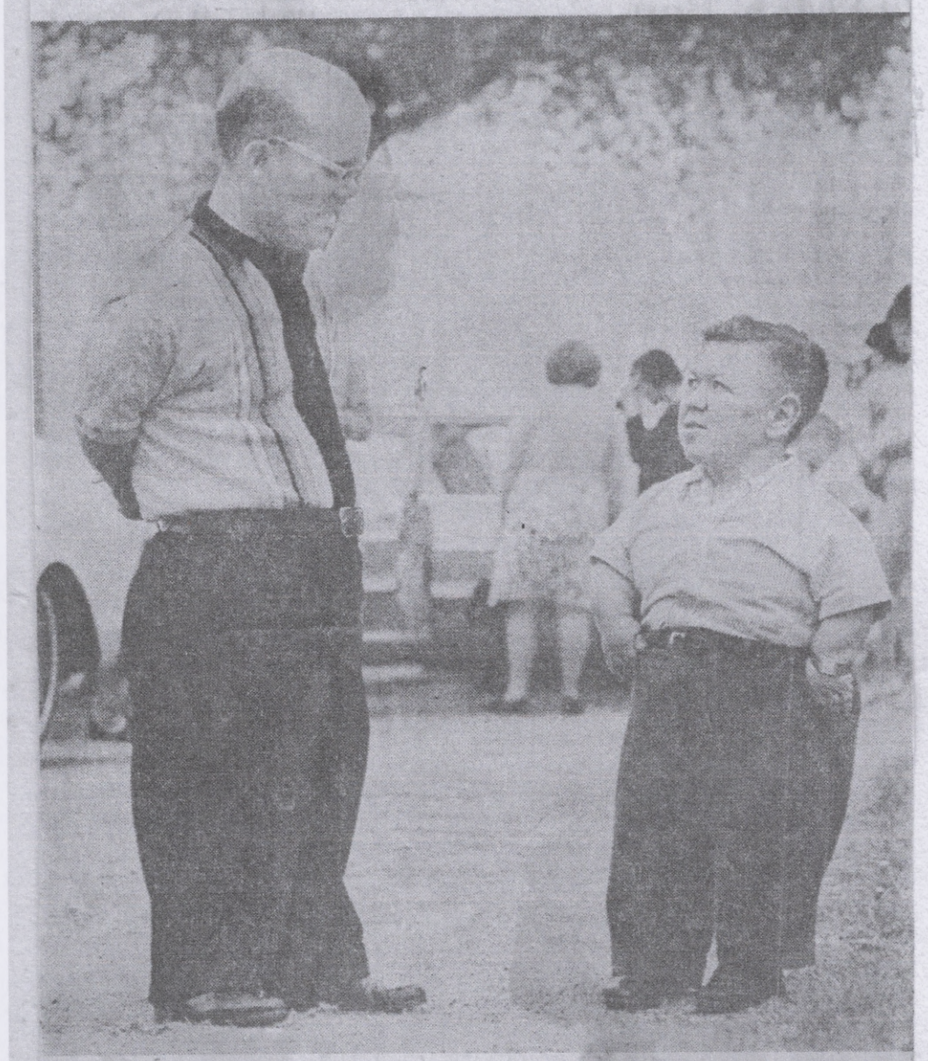
What a difference a little human growth hormone makes. Look at this girl who by taking daily shots of the hormone grew 3½ inches in 5 months. Note the radical body changes as well.




Continued on page 6

District 12 Meeting — Bakersfield, California
- September - 1965

★ ★ Sunday, June 6, 1965 ★ ★ ★ ★



**Host Ralph Welbes** (right), 24, talked with Paul Dolinajecji, 42, of Arlington Heights, Ill., at the meeting of the Little People of America Saturday at Welbes' home in Oak Creek. Welbes is 3 feet. Dolinajecji is 4 feet 5. —Journal Photo

# Plight of Little People Is Described by Some

By BARBARA SCHMOLL
Of The Journal Staff

The teacher was trying to organize her pupils in Sheboygan's crowded train station as the group was setting out on a field trip. Several mothers stood near by and watched.

"Which one's the teacher?" asked the stationmaster, nodding toward the women.

"None of them," one of the youngsters replied. "She's the kid with the earrings."

**Cites Advantage**

That's a story Miss Harriet Hoppert, the teacher, tells on herself to illustrate one advantage of being a "little people." Miss Hoppert, who is 4 feet 2, is the Wisconsin-Illinois district secretary of the Little People of America, Inc.

The district had its third meeting Saturday at the home of Ralph Welbes, 7621 S. Pennsylvania av., Oak Creek. He is 3 feet tall.

Miss Hoppert, who now lives at 7719 W. Hampton av., said that being short "was the best way to be a teacher." She said it increased her rapport with her pupils because she was "one of them."

But there are disadvantages, too, some of the little people pointed out. Clothes are too big and must be tailored. Furniture is out of proportion. Light switches and kitchen cabinets cannot be reached. Car pedals are too far away. And stand-up telephones are out of the question.

"For years, telephone booths had seats," said Paul Dolinajecji, 42, and 4 feet 5, of Arlington, Ill. "Then, all of a sudden, you have to stand up."

**Nickels a Problem**

That was bad, agreed Joseph White, jr., 40, who is 4 feet 6, of Kenosha. "But did you ever

Reg. $12.95 sq. yd. SALE
Thick pile swirl design, hea
saxony type yarns, 100%
wool face. Bisque beige,
frosted cocoa, ocean green.
EMBOSSED SURFACE TEX

SHE was once described to a visitor by one of her pupils as "the kid with the earrings." And she has been described by a friend as a short person with a voice "that's six feet tall." Both titles aptly refer to Miss Harriet Hoppert, 4 foot 2 inch fourth and fifth grade teacher at Browning school, 5575 N. 76th st. Miss Hoppert, who lives at 7719 W. Hampton av., is a native of Sheboygan and taught there for several years before moving to Milwaukee. She is an active member of the Wisconsin-Illinois district of the Little People of America, Inc., and the association's national historian. But in her classroom she is all teacher and has the respect of pupils and faculty alike and believes that her shortness actually increases her rapport with the children. She stood with her class (upper) in the doorway waiting for a dismissal bell. **Left:** Without the use of a chair she can reach only to the middle of the blackboard, about the same place where her students start writing.

*—Journal Photos by John Ahlhauser*

**Miss Hoppert** likes to kneel on a chair while talking to her class. The action adds about two inches to her height. **Lower:** Mrs. Barbara Hembrook, 495 Rip Van Winkle dr., Brookfield, a speech therapist, towers over Miss Hoppert as she delivered a message. Miss Hoppert has been at Browning for a year and a half.

1965

# Lil' Folks To Gather In Jersey

GLOUCESTER, N.J. (AP) — Did you ever visit a hotel and find the shower spigots too high?

Or have you tried to make a telephone call and found the mouthpiece too far above the floor?

Most likely not. But then, you're probably not one of the "little people."

Some 250 persons were expected today for the seventh annual convention of Little People of America Inc.

The only requisite for admission to the organization is that the applicant be less than 4 feet, 11 inches tall.

The group has about 1,800 members "and there are probably many more in the United States (who qualify) but we haven't heard of them," said a spokesman.

"We have problems that normal people don't have," said George Baehm III of New York City. "At these annual conventions we are able to discuss those problems in addition to introducing little people to other little people."

"Had I not gone to the convention in North Carolina in 1962," said the 4-foot tall Baehm, "I'd not have met my wife." Haehm's wife, Christine or "Tina," is 3-feet-11.

Baehm, who works for his family's Baehm Container Co., said among the problems facing little people is employment.

"As the public is becoming adjusted to our size," he said, "more opportunities arise."

Very few of Little People of America's members are employed in show business, he said. They are active in "almost every occupation you can think of."

Probably the biggest problem facing them is simply that the world is designed for tall people.

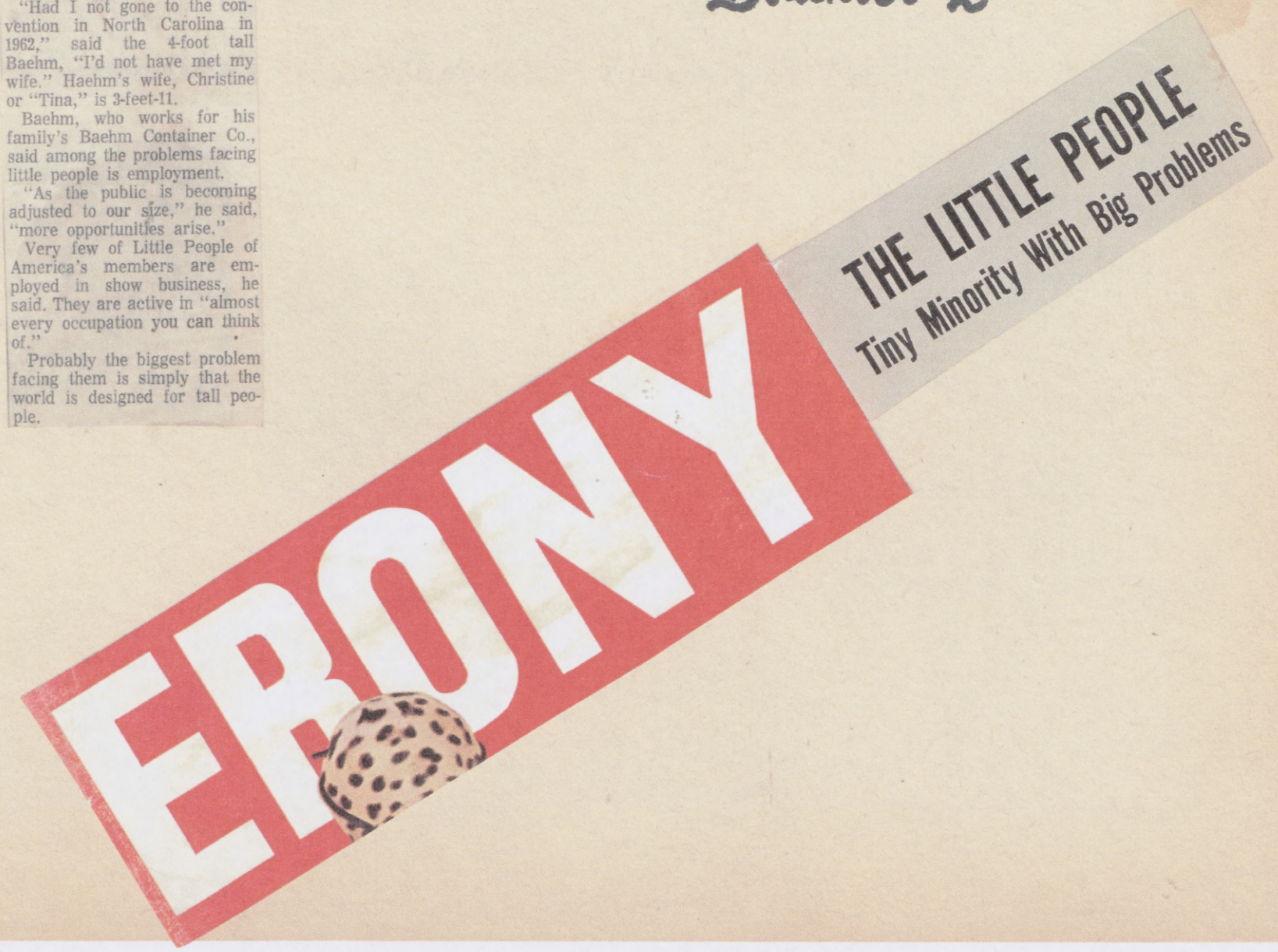
7th National -

Gloucester N.J.

July 19-23, 1965

Hosting

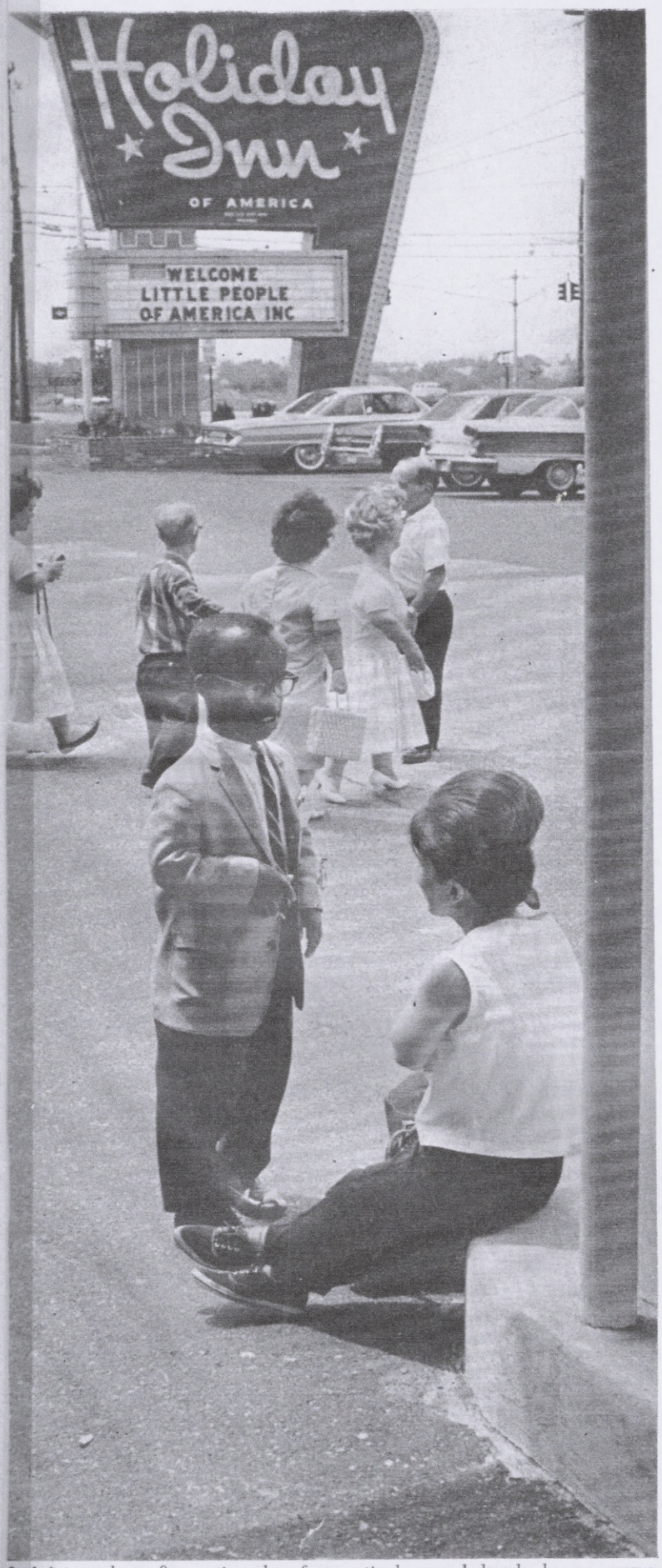
-District 2



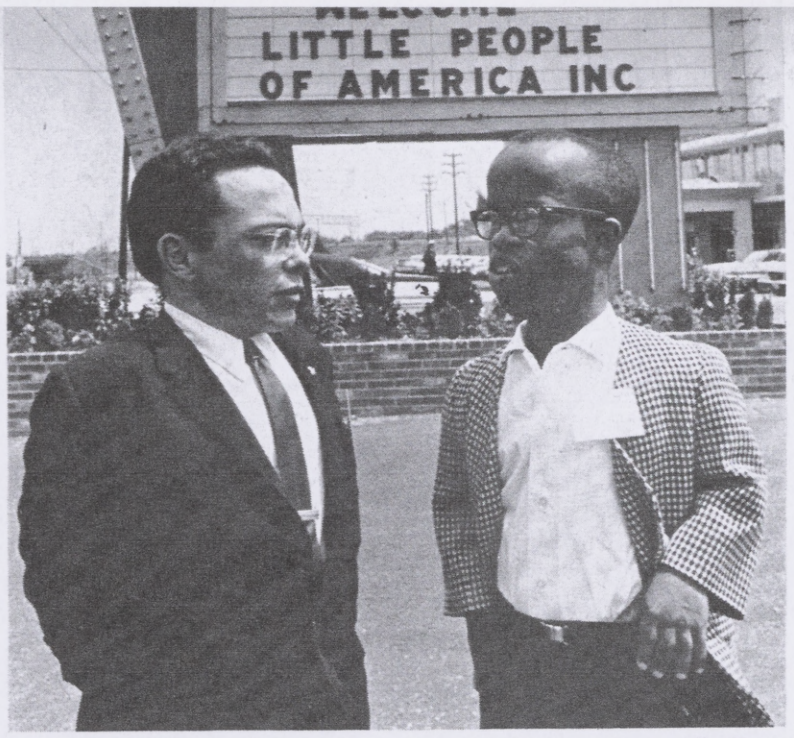
**Oblivious to giant world** of people and skyscrapers towering over him, three feet tall Kenneth Brown strolls through downtown Philadelphia attracting scarcely little more attention than any other rush hour shopper. Not a sufferer of claustrophobia, neat-dressing ex-dancer uses small stature to maneuver effortlessly through crowds.

# THE LITTLE PEOPLE

## —A Tiny Minority With Big Problems




**Curbstone** makes a fine resting place for one tired young lady who has no reservations about resting. Shyness is a big problem little people have to conquer to fit into big world, and racial prejudice is minimal among those scorned for size. Little People of America, Inc. convention was held in Gloucester City, near Camden, New Jersey.




**Little People of America** President Lee Kitchens, a Texas engineer, tells Kenny how the organization seeks answers to the physical problems of dwarfs. With slight adjustments, little people match many accomplishments of those of regular size.

## Midgets, dwarfs fight size discrimination

### BY ALVIN ADAMS

ONE OF the smallest minority groups in America faces what may be the country's biggest problem.

The minority group is the "little people," persons under four feet ten inches tall. Their problem is how to live day by day in a world designed for people who are of normal size.

Unlike Negroes who can sing about "overcoming" the racial problem, little people know they shall never grow tall.

Consider Kenneth Brown.

Kenneth Brown was born on July 22, 1940, in Charleston, S. C., the eighth child of the Rev. Willis Brown, a Baptist preacher, and Mrs. Evelyn Brown.

For the first four months, he was just like any other baby. Then, his mother noticed that although his head and body continued to grow, his arms and legs did not. When Mrs. Brown learned that her son was destined to become a dwarf, her first reaction was "just to take care of him, because he's my child." Being a member of one of the country's most overlooked minority groups, the "little people," did not diminish Kenny in the world of mother love. "We loved him just as much as we loved the other children—maybe more."

When Kenny was seven years old, "he was still handicapped about looking after himself" and a private teacher came into the Brown home. Two years later, Kenny enrolled in the first grade of public school. He went all the way through high school, graduating at the age of 21.

That year, 1961, Kenny told the family he "wanted to be on his own, to look for work." With some show business dancing and master of ceremony experience under his tiny belt, Kenny set off for Camden, N. J., to make his way in the big, wide world—if possible, the show business world traditionally open to dwarfs. He toured the East Coast with Jackie Wilson for two years. But show business is a hard world even when you are tiny enough to dance on table tops.

Later, Kenny accepted a job as copy boy for a Philadelphia newspaper. After a year and a half, he gave up the work because a doctor insisted it entailed too much walking for the arthritis he suffered in his legs.

Kenny has tried for other jobs since, and he now hopes to become a radio disc jockey. Meanwhile, he lives in a dark rooming house, at the top of a long flight of stairs, and draws a welfare check. Jovial and quite alert mentally, he has set about tackling the man-sized obstacles of racial discrimination in Camden and neighboring Philadelphia, where he is a devotee of the NAACP's powerful Cecil Moore.

An extrovert by nature, Kenny is not to be ignored wherever he goes or in whatever he does. But his compatriots in size constitute

## THE LITTLE PEOPLE *Continued*

one of the nation's most overlooked minority groups. Study and research-conscious America has taken so few looks at the little people that no one even knows for sure how many there are. Nor, for that matter, is anyone sure that four feet ten inches is the right place to distinguish between little people and big people. The limit was set arbitrarily, just as was the estimate that some five to seven thousand Americans fall into the "little" category.

The medical profession knows little about these people. Generally, it has classified three types of dwarfs—the pituitary, the cretin and the achondroplastic.

The pituitary dwarf results from malfunction of the pituitary gland, a small red organ the size of a pea which is located in the middle of the skull at about the level of the ears and sends into the blood stream hormones which regulate growth. Pituitary dwarfs usually look like smaller copies of normal people; they are usually normal mentally; and they are the dwarfs accurately referred to as midgets. The most famous midget was Charles S. Stratton, P. T. Barnum's General Tom Thumb.

The cretin dwarf occurs when a child's thyroid gland does not produce enough of its hormone for normal growth. If untreated, cretins become misshapen. Cretinism can be corrected by thyroid feeding begun when the victim is very young.

**Indian brothers** Marshall (l.) and Bobby Jacobs, natives of Lumberton, N. C., and now residents of Philadelphia, join Kitchens for lunch. Appearance in public, where everything is scaled for big people, often requires courage of dwarfs.

The achondroplastic dwarf may result from some abnormality of the endocrine glands. This type of dwarf has short legs, a large head and normal-sized body and arms. Achondroplasia can be inherited. This is the dwarf described in Norse mythology.

Dr. Leonard O. Langer, University of Minnesota radiologist who has studied dwarfism extensively, disagrees with popular theories that three types of glandular malfunctions cause most dwarfism. "We're talking about 40 different medical conditions," he explains. "Most dwarfs don't have an abnormality in glands; the problem is in formation of their bones. We can't document a biochemical abnormality in 85 per cent of the cases." Dr. Langer has a daughter, four years old, who is small. Citing contradictory conclusions on the causes of dwarfism, Dr. Langer feels the "first step is to try to accurately classify the different types before we research the causes." Once doctors are able to determine genetic characteristics, they can anticipate and meet medical problems of relatives and children of little people.

If the causes of dwarfism are yet relatively unknown, the cures are even less so.

Dr. William Perloff, head of endocrinology at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, confesses that "we're still quite stymied in terms of growth hormone. Whereas there is hope for inexpensive, sufficient hormones, at this moment we're not much further along than in the past." Study is expensive, amounting to as much as $5,000 per person, he estimated. And worst of all, "this is not a popular cause, such as heart disease, so doctors are reluctant to devote their whole lives to studying the problems of little people." One solution, Dr. Perloff suggests, is that "the federal government must become interested in the project."

**Crowned King and Queen** of the little people's convention, chemistry Ph.D. Bob Spector and Brooklynite Elinor Ostrow get royal treatment from loyal subjects. Many year-around introverts become extroverts at week-long, once-a-year affair.

**Cutting a rug,** one-time professional dancer Kenny Brown delights partner, Mrs. Bill Aubaugh. Convention goers closed each day's session with a dance, were de-

**Teen-age batter** Bobby Hubof of Post Falls, Idaho, takes mighty – but late – swing at baseball (above) in traditional East-West game heightened by pretty big arguments with patient umpire Pete Sessa (left).

**Teammates praise** West pitcher Billy Barty, player on *Peter Gunn* TV show, after a strikeout inning. Game is annual attraction of little people's convention although many other sports are easier for dwarfs.

**Agile Kenny Brown** scores one of East's 24 to 3 winning runs in biggest crowd-drawing game played on Gloucester little league field. Physical acts—such as running—are difficult for most dwarfs and long hit balls just got player to first.

suggests, is that "the federal government must become interested in the project."

**Ten-year-old boy,** with mother at left, is four feet five inches tall and bigger than most dwarfs. The normal-sized boy, Gordon White, came to little people's meeting from Burbank, Calif., with his twin brother, Alan, who stands three feet tall.

## THE LITTLE PEOPLE *Continued*

While medicine has overlooked the little people, the public at large has laughed at them. Since the Middle Ages when dwarfs entertained at the European courts of kings, little people have been considered court jesters. Traditionally, only side show jobs have been open to them. "Let's face it, these people look funny," one doctor stated frankly.

Therein lies the dwarf's biggest problem.

Like the Negro, he has a "visibility problem," declared Dr. Perloff. "Colored people have to fight it; short people can't and there aren't enough of them."

The only other course is to change their image. Consequently, little people, as a whole, shun show business jobs with distaste equaled only by the "new Negro" refusing watermelon.

"There is nothing big people do that we can't do," boasts Lee Kitchens of Richardson, Texas, president of the Little People of America, Inc.

That revelation, uttered at the seventh annual convention of the organization, opened a big—er, small—new world to Kenneth Brown.

Kitchens, 35, has made the giant step that spans both the big and small worlds. Four feet one inch tall in a state where everything allegedly is Texas-sized, Kitchens was trained as an engineer at Southern Methodist University and is employed as head of a test equipment design engineering group at Texas Instruments, Inc., the world's largest manufacturer of transistors. Kitchens even flies his own airplane. He is married to the former Mary Belle Perryman, who is three feet eleven inches tall, and they have two adopted children, both "little littles" as dwarf children are called. (A special adoption agency finds homes for "little littles," usually unwanted in the big world.) The Kitchens' home, the second house they have bought, is furnished, with few exceptions, like any big person's home might be equipped. "What differences we have are inconspicuous," the family man explained. The furniture is contemporary, which ordinarily is low. "Contrary to popular belief, little people don't saw the legs off everything," the usually solemn-faced businessman grinned. Light switches are doorknob high, which is becoming common in new homes. "I hate stairs, so there are no steps, even at the front door." The house was constructed at ground level. In the kitchen, the counter is 27 inches high instead of the usual 36 inches. The built-in counter top range is just a little lower than usual. The bathroom fixtures are low, and they were available at no extra cost. "And they're not little children size," he added, and again a grin cracked the serious countenance of his face. "There is only one piece of special furniture in my house," he boasted. "My chair at the desk in my study, and my parents gave it to me 20 years ago when I was a kid."

Refusing to concede that they face discrimination because of size, little people prefer to look upon their difficulties as "nuisances."

Most of these are physical, such as water fountains, telephones and store counters beyond their reach, or clothing that has to be tailor made or made over.

**Cutting a rug,** one-t[illegible] professional dancer Kenny Brown delights partner, Mrs Bill Aubaugh. Conve[illegible]goers closed each day's session with a dance, were de-

**A ladies' man,** Kenny proposes a toast with three dinner companions, (l. to r.) Marcia Moore of Defiance, Ohio; Kathy Schuster of Bay Village, Ohio, and Ann Mikos of North Haven, Conn. Kenny was first Negro to attend "little people's" meeting.

**Uninhibited** by conventional uses of furniture, such as this chair, Kenny and Charles Bedow of Owatonna, Minn., seem to think better draped over it. Dwarfs usually sit with feet off floor, don't saw legs off things but often buy low furniture.

**Sitting in trunk** of car makes packing easier for one little man, who gets an assist from Kenny. Carrying a box nearly as big as his own size posed no problem of strength for the traveler, but reaching into back of trunk from ground did.

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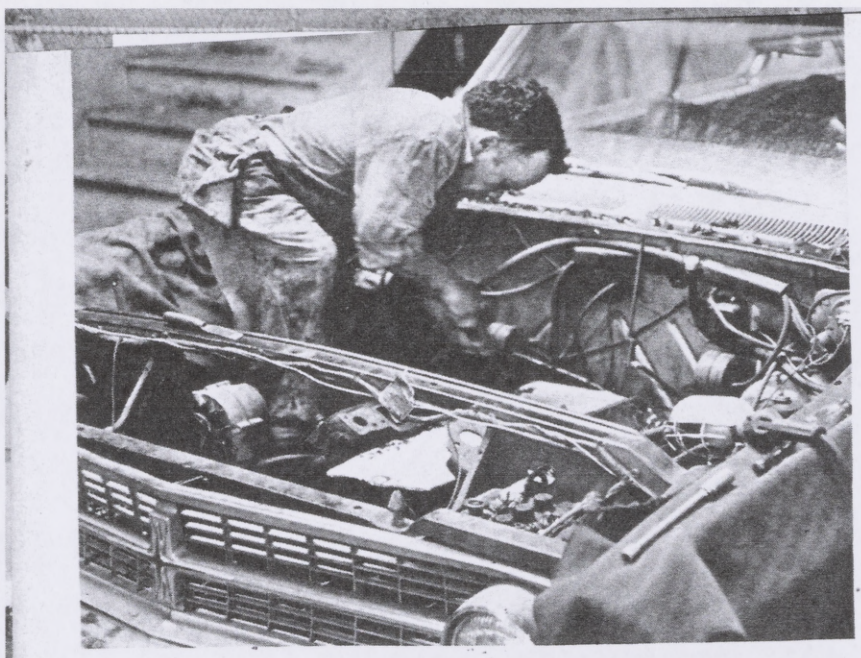

**In favorite easy chair,** Marshall relaxes after hard day the way any working man would—with a cold drink and favorite TV program. Now a resident of Philadelphia, Marshall, 41, learned his trade in a 1938 Civilian Conservation Corp camp.

**Auto mechanic** Marshall Jacobs, four feet, one inch tall, has learned to "get right in with the motor" while working. Driving a car (right) is just as easy as fixing one with special feet, back extensions.

**Married to five feet seven inch,** 230-pound Indian wife, Marshall is not handicapped at home by size. The couple gave birth to three children, all now deceased.

## THE LITTLE PEOPLE *Continued*

There is some economic prejudice, where employers automatically exclude little people from consideration for jobs. Quick to announce that less than one per cent of its members earn their livings in show business, Little People of America (LPA) likes to herald the occupations of its less illustrious members, those who in the big world would be considered ordinary or little people. These are the watchmaker, TV repairman, chemist, psychiatrist, bookkeeper, service station operator, nurse, secretary, teacher, farmer, I.B.M. operator, printer, baker, advertising representative, real estate salesman, public relations man, bartender, speech therapist, cook, hotel clerk and many more.

Stressing education as the key to the little people's economic futures, Kitchens said, "Only in unskilled trades do we have a job problem. There, we are competing on a physical rather than mental basis. Some (little people) compete quite well in this. Once in a while some employer will say 'no, you're too little.' Instead of feeling sorry for ourselves, we simply go somewhere else."

Bobby Jacobs, a 29-year-old Indian from Lumberton, N. C., is familiar with the "sorry, too short" routine. He also knew how to overcome it. Bobby is four feet six and one half inches tall. He went only as far as the eighth grade in the Indian school. He applied for a job at Tartan Knitting Mills in Philadelphia. "The company said I was too small to do the work. A friend of mine was a supervisor, so he gave me a three day trial and started me at $1.30 an hour. On the fourth day, I got a permanent job and a 10 cent raise." A member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, he separates the wool when it comes down from the knitters and he sends it to be washed.

Bobby's 41 year old brother, Marshall Jacobs, also lives in Philadel

**Devout Christians,** Marshall and Parrie Jacobs study Bible and religious lessons preparation for coming services. Marshall is an active deacon in the Church of Chri

the proi

**Bobby Jacobs** works in mills separating orders (above) as the wool comes down and sending it to be washed (right). Denied job at first, four feet six inch man was hired after a three-day trial.

**A bachelor,** 29-year-old Bobby lives in Philadelphia apartment furnished to accommodate his size, including mirror set on floor. Bobby meets the near-perfect proportions that classify a dwarf as a midget.

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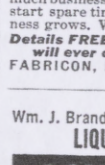


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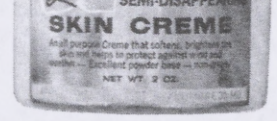


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**It's a big man's world,** and almost everything is an inconvenience for dwarfs. For instance, from the time Kenneth Brown, a three foot, 85-pounder, rises in the morning and leaves the top floor of his brownstone rooming house (left), he is always reaching or looking up, whether it be for parking meters, telephones or talking to someone.

## THE LITTLE PEOPLE *Continued*

phia and is an automobile mechanic. He is four feet one inch tall. He learned his trade—along with brick masonry, carpentry and welding—in a CCC camp. He admits, "I have a little difficulty getting under the hood of a car," but he has learned to maneuver in such a way as to "make the work an advantage." For instance, when repairing something on the motor he says, "I get right in there with the motor and sit down."

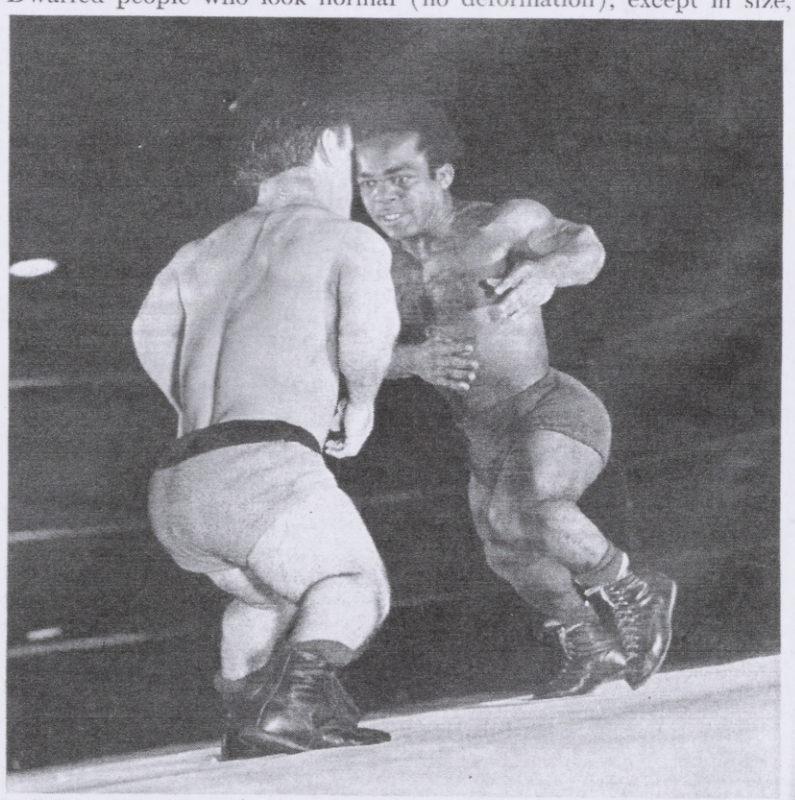
Harriet Hoppert of Milwaukee, like several "little people," is a teacher. Forty years old, she stands four feet two inches tall in her second and third grade classroom. It is "no problem teaching the kids once I get to know them," she says. "If there is a problem, it is that the kids adore me. Kids cheer when they learn they are being promoted to Miss Hoppert's room. The kids respect me as a teacher but also know I'm their friend." The reaction is similar in the world of adults. "People first are curious; then they take to you and over-spoil you."

More important than the job problems little people face are the many social problems.

There are three major—and crucial—phases in the life of a small person. 1) When the small child enters public school and leaves the sheltered home life. This can be a shock. 2) The teen-age years, when boys begin to enter sports and little people are left out. Some activities, such as bowling and golf, they can enter, but things that require running handicap little people. 3) Young adulthood, when the little person begins to wonder if he or she can have a home and family and hold down a job.

Radiologist Dr. Langer said there is a problem as far as the social aspect of sex is concerned because there are not many little people. Dwarfed people who look normal (no deformation), except in size,

**Beauty queen** Deena Roberson, Miss Camden of 1965, draws admiring glances from the little man as she talks with union representative Thomas E. Gaskins. Kenny aided Camden hospital strike, Philly Girard College tiff in civil rights drives.



**Capitalizing on peculiar size,** many dwarfs such as wrestlers Saile Helassie (r.) and Irish Jackie enter some form of show business but the majority of the country's little people shun entertainment jobs and enter occupations anyone else seeks

suggests
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have a better chance of marrying and fitting into the big world. "The deformed don't have much chance. Therefore, there is increased illegitimacy among deformed little people. But by and large, size is not as much of a factor as are the social difficulties."

One four-foot, two-inch woman at the coronation ball of the little people's king and queen danced until the last note of the 14-piece orchestra wafted away. "It's so nice to dance and lean on the shoulder of a man," she sighed. "Here (at LPA meetings), you're treated as a woman." She was quick to clarify that the organization "is not a lonely hearts club, but it is nice to dance." Little men want to prove themselves as men, she surmised and concluded that "many are more manly than other (regular sized) men."

Rutgers University sociologist Dr. Martin Weinberg, a five-foot-five and one half inch man, drew some interesting conclusions from a preliminary study of the social lives of little people. "Before joining LPA, many little people had no social life. It is estimated that 95 per cent never went to a party or a public dinner before. They wouldn't take that chance. Some never had a date before. When they (gather with other little people) they become Don Juans."

Dr. Weinberg feels an organization such as LPA is an asset to little people. "When they come here, the world opens up to them. On the outside, if they are stared at they become self conscious. Here, they like it. What was a punishment then is a reward now. They are taught here how to live as humans. Sociologically, they enter the organization and learn a strategy of behavior. We all play a role everyday. Because they might have been hidden away, little people did not learn how to play the role. Some have never been to school. In LPA, they watch other little people and see what they do. They learn how to handle themselves in relation to big people."

Harriet Hoppert bridges the gap between the big and small world quickly. "I put people at ease immediately by opening my mouth first," she said. "My mother always told me to let the world know who Harriet Hoppert is."

Not all little people are so effervescent.

"Little people are just like normal people," is how the always-image-conscious gathering shatters any generalities about themselves.

Because little people in America are still such a small minority group (an estimated five to seven thousand in a total population of 192 million), LPA's "one for all—all for one" philosophy may well result in the most cohesive class of people since the unification of the Jew.

"You always have to think as a group, not for yourself," said petite 19-year-old Mrs. Sally Bedow of Owatonna, Minn. "We're always on the alert to do our best. Eventually you get used to the pressure; you know you are trailblazing for others. Especially on the job." The daughter of Lee Wright, a four-foot tall retired businessman, and his four-foot-eight-inch school teacher wife of Texarkana, Texas, four-foot-eight-inch Mrs. Bedow is a payroll clerk. Her husband, LPA treasurer Charles Bedow, is an insurance company sales correspondent. "When big people goof," Mrs. Bedow explained, "people say he had a bad day. When a little person goofs, they say he's 'little people'."

How do little people endure this inescapable, Herculean pressure?

"We make it strictly by personality," said Charles Bedow.

"Our sense of humor has made it," suggested Harriet Hoppert.

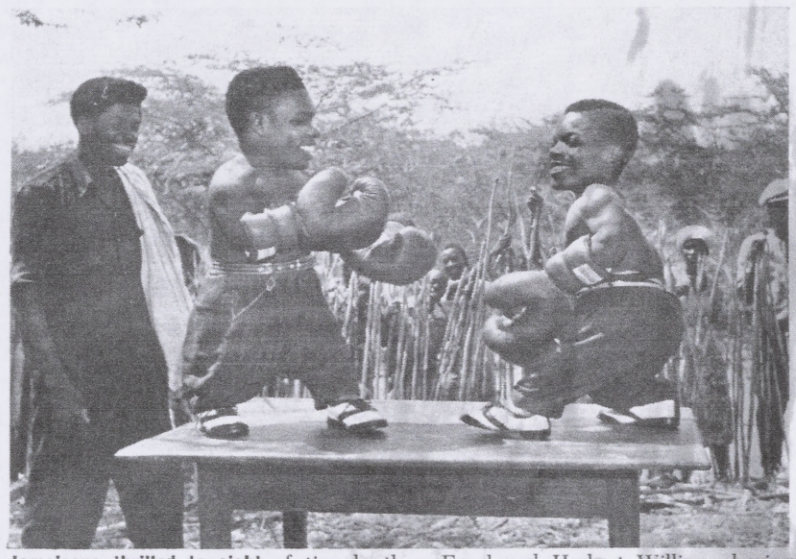
Indeed, a sense of humor seems to be a prerequisite for little people who want to fit into the big world. And though nothing makes a dwarf angrier than being the butt of your joke, he may put you at ease instantly by telling you a joke about his size.

Charles Bedow, who is four-foot-six-inch tall, for instance, quips that "like a compact car, I'm a compact person."

Bob Hinkson, an accountant at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, chuckles: "Little people have a lower center of gravity and we don't stagger, so we can drink more." Hinkson, who is three-foot-seven-inch tall and weighs 105 pounds, has three, six-foot tall brothers. "The year I was born, crops were bad everywhere," he grins. And "I get wider than I do tall. I don't know if I'm walking or rolling."

"Learning to accept yourself for what you are is the first big step toward entering the overgrown world," LPA President Lee Kitchens tells dwarfs. (His word 'overgrown' suggests that he has put the burden of belonging on the other guy.) "The main purpose of Little People of America, Inc., is to provide the environment to adjust to yourself, then to society. You have to quit dreaming for some miracle drug or panacea out of the blue to make you grow up physically."

**Tailor Dan Shapiro** remakes sleeves, hem of boy's coat for Kenny and shortens trouser legs by half. Kenney is store's smallest customer and Wilt Chamberlain is tallest. Snappy wardrobe diminishes his size deficiency (right) to some extent.



**Jamaicans thrilled to sight** of tiny brothers Ernel and Herbert Williams boxing on a table top in a tradition that dates back to the Middle Ages when dwarfs in Europe often served as court jesters. Today, dwarfs seek normal lives.

**Well proportioned** dwarfs such as Frankie Dee have found positions representing nationally-known products. Dee, a representative of Schenley industries, won award from Burr Gibson for March of Dimes participation as Charles Bynum watches.

# Candlelight Wedding in Hooks Unites Sally Anne Wright and Charles Bedow

1965

HOOKS, Texas (Special)—The First Methodist Church of Hooks, Texas, was the setting for the candlelight wedding ceremony Tuesday evening, December 9 uniting Miss Sally Anne Wright and Charles Bedow.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wright of Hooks, and the bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Flora Nyhus of Grandview, Washington, and the late Mr. Henry Bedow.

The Reverend Boyd Baker officiated at the double-ring ceremony. Marriage vows were exchanged at the altar which was decorated with seven-branched candelabra draped with greenery and wedding bells and holding tall burning tapers. Palms and baskets of gladioli were placed at each side. In the background was a large cross with indirect lighting.

Billy Green and Danny Hensel were candle lighters.

A program of nuptial music was presented by Mrs. Jerry Gray, organist. She also accompanied Miss Kay Waldon who sang "O Perfect Love" and, as the couple knelt on a white prie-Dieu, "The Lord's Prayer" as a benediction.

The bride chose for her wedding a formal gown of white peau de twill featuring a molded bodice with a scooped neckline, outlined in Alencon lace, and short sleeves. The skirt was a modified bell shape with a long chapel train and a bustle effect topped by a bow at the back waistline. Alencon lace was appliqued on the front panel and on the train. The bride's short veil of silk illusion was attached to a miniature crown of pearls and crystal teardrops.

The bride entered the sanctuary on the arm of her father who gave her in marriage. She carried a bouquet of white carnations and an orchid atop a white Bible, a gift of a former pastor. Her only jewelry was a turquoise pendant with a Lindy Star, the gift of the bridegroom.

Miss Marilyn Christian was the bride's only attendant. She wore a red velvet street length dress, a white fur hat, and she carried a white fur muff. David Douglass, cousin of the bride, was ringbearer. Jimmy Fore of Texarkana was best man and guests were seated by Charles Anderson, Robert Earnest, Billy Green, and Danny Hensel.

For her daughter's wedding, Mrs. Wright wore a beige silk shantung dress with beige and brown accessories. Her corsage was of apricot carnations.

Following the wedding, the parents of the bride were hosts for a reception in the fellowship hall of the church. The refreshment table was covered with a formal cloth of white organdy and was decorated with an arrangement of red and white carnations and red candles in a silver epergne. Mrs. Jimmy Fore served cake and Miss Joyce White poured punch. Miss Johnette Christian registered the guests. Also assisting with the reception were cousins of the bride, Mrs. James Smith of Jacksonville, Texas, and Mrs. Clifford Douglass of Bedford, Texas.

For travel the bridl wore an olive green wool sheath dress topped with a green cape. Her accessories were green and black. She pinned the orchid from her bridal bouquet at her shoulder. After a short wedding trip, the couple will be at home in Owatonna, Minnesota, where the bridegroom is employed.

Out-of-town guests other than those already mentioned were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Douglass of Ore City, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Erin Oden of Diana, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Spivey of Redwater, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kitchens of Richardson, Texas; Mrs. J. E. Scott, Miss Brenda Poynor, and Kent Poynor of Dallas, Texas; Michael Smith of Jacksonville, Texas; and Mrs. Morris Pate and Jackie Pate of New Boston, Texas.

MRS. CHARLES BEDOW

July 1, 1967

# Miss Harriet Hoppert Weds Alfred F. Stickney In Rite

Favorite hymns of Miss Harriet Hoppert, the bride, a former Sheboygan resident, and of the bridegroom, Alfred F. Stickney, San Bruno, Calif., were played this afternoon while guests were gathering for their 3 o'clock wedding.

The nuptial scene for the ceremony read by the Rev. Richard Musser, was Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa.

A member of the family, Miss Ann Hoppert, the bride's sister from Sheboygan, played the 15-minute period of hymn tunes; the processional, "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by Bach; the accompaniment for the hymn sung by the congregation, "O Perfect Love", an arrangement by Dorothy Gurney with the melody by F. C. Atkinson, and the recessional, "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" by Georg G. Boltze.

Two bouquets of white gladioli and stock flanked the altar, with lighted candelabra as part of the setting.

Mrs. M. J. Hoppert, the bride's mother who lives at 905 N. 26th St., was among those present from Sheboygan. The bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Richard C. Stickney, who came from Stoneham, Mass., for the rite. The late Col. Richard C. Stickney was the bridegroom's father.

Short sleeved, the ankle-length bridal gown was fashioned of ivory brocade and had an empire waist. White satin trimmed the bodice. The neckline and sleeves were adorned with satin and seed pearls. The bride's mother designed and made the bridal gown. A petite crown, outlined in lace and seed pearls, with a shoulder - length veil had been worn originally by the bride's godchild when she became Mrs. James Swarten. In cascade style, the bridal bouquet of feathered white carnations was centered with a white cymbidium orchid and had sprengerli foliage. Frederic M. Hoppert of Wauwatosa, the bride's brother, gave her in marriage after he escorted her down the aisle.

Sister of the bride, Mrs. Dale Beihoffer, Minneapolis, Minn., participated as matron of honor. Floor-length and short-sleeved, the dress she designed and made had a seven - gored skirt and round neckline. It was a kera-flex fabric in a misty blue shade. The matching circlet cap, with short veil attached, had a button of matching material to hold it. Her flowers were a cascade of white and pink feathered carnations with blue forget-me-not and sprengerli.

A long - time friend of the bridegroom, Robert Corkum, Brookfield, was in the role of best man. Three nephews of the bride — David Hoppert, Madison, Jonathan and Philip Hoppert, both of Wauwatosa—were groomsmen and one similarly related to the bridegroom—Robert Reno Jr. of Concord, N. H., completed the foursome, who did the ushering.

Immediately following the ceremony, a reception for 200 guests is being held in Fellowship Hall of the church. Another festivity is to be the noon luncheon Sunday at which the bridegroom's mother will be hostess to 30 guests at Alioto's Restaurant in Milwaukee.

Northern California will be toured by the couple wed and after July 5, they will have the following mailing address: P.O. Box 633, San Bruno, Calif., 94055.

An alumna of Central High School, the former Miss Hoppert has a bachelor of science and master of science degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. She has completed teaching for Milwaukee Public Schools.

Mr. Stickney was graduated from Stoneham, Mass., High School and Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, Mass. He is employed in the United Airlines maintenance department at San Francisco International Airport.

## A Dwarf No More

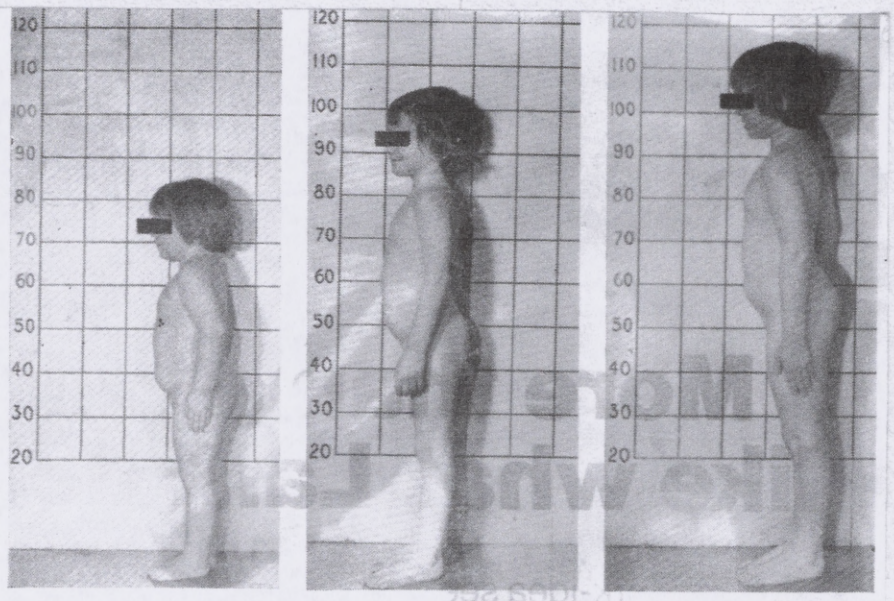
When towheaded Stevie Kling was 5, he was only 2½ feet tall. Indeed, he had grown only 1 inch since the age of 2. His father had to build him a ladder so he could reach the bathroom sink, and his kindergarten classmates at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in St. Louis carried him like a baby. In all other physical and mental respects, he was able to keep up with the other children, and a succession of doctors assured his parents the boy was "just short." But the parents, increasingly concerned, eventually sought help from physicians at Washington University School of Medicine, who diagnosed him as a hypopituitary dwarf: he was suffering from a deficiency in the hormone that stimulates growth. Thanks to regular injections of human growth hormone (HGH), Stevie started to grow again, and at 13 has nearly caught up with his seventh-grade classmates.

HGH is one of eight hormones produced by the pituitary gland, an organ a little larger than a pea that lies beneath the brain at the base of the skull. Released into the blood, HGH aids in the complex chemical process of growth by, for example, helping the body accumulate the amino acids necessary for building proteins, and by increasing the level of sugar in the blood for energy. Although a tumor of the pituitary may cause a lack of HGH, the cause of the deficiency in most cases is unknown.

**Sufferers:** Another problem with hypopituitary dwarfism is difficulty of diagnosis. Lack of HGH is involved in only about one in ten cases of this "proportional" dwarfism; liver or kidney disease, heredity and malnutrition can also account for cases of stunted growth. While at least 10,000 hypopituitary dwarfs have been diagnosed in recent years, doctors suspect that as many as 50,000 Americans suffer from HGH deficiency.

Nothing could be done about hypopituitary dwarfism until 1956, when Dr. Maurice Raben of Tufts University School of Medicine, in Boston, first extracted the purified HGH from the pituitaries of cadavers. Unfortunately, only HGH from human or monkey pituitaries will work, and the supply from human cadavers and monkeys is too small to meet the demand.

To get more HGH for children like Stevie, a National Pituitary Agency was established in 1963 by the U.S. National Institutes of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases and the College of American Pathologists. The agency, directed by Dr. Milton S. Grossman of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, has been conducting an educational campaign to urge pathologists to save human pituitaries when they perform autopsies, and to encourage the public to will their pituitaries as they do their eyes. Aided by Human Growth, Inc., an educational foundation made up largely of parents of hypopituitary dwarfs, the agency has increased the yield of available human




**Hypopituitary case: With HGH, 50% growth between the ages of 6 and 9**

pituitary glands from 15,000 in 1962 to 72,000 last year. Pituitaries collected by the agency are sent to Raben at Tufts and Dr. Alfred Wilhelmi of Atlanta's Emory University who extract pure HGH. The agency then sends the extract to one of some 65 institutions.

**Yield:** Good as this collection record is, it is not good enough. More than 70 pituitaries are required to yield enough HGH for a year's series of treatments. Moreover, because a great deal remains to be learned about HGH, patients are given the hormone only in clinical research programs. This means only about 400 U.S. youngsters with hypopituitary dwarfism are now able to benefit from HGH therapy (doctors, of course, automatically turn down requests from parents who want their normal children "to be taller," since they would not be helped by the hormone anyway).

Stevie Kling, one of the lucky ones, received an injection of HGH every other day since 1959 through a research program supported by the NPA at Washington University School of Medicine. During the first year of treatment, he grew 6 inches. He is now 4½ feet tall, and ultimately, his physicians predict, he will attain an adult height in the "low normal range," which starts at 5 feet.

With all the current excitement generated by heart- and organ-transplant surgery, the NPA believes that its campaign for pituitaries can now be intensified. Like the surgeons who perform heart transplants, Grossman favors legislation making it easier for persons to will their bodies for research. "We want intelligent legislation," he notes, "so that people can will tissues, and so that survivors can't decree against it after death." Grossman would also like survivors to permit more autopsies to be performed, so that pathologists will be able to obtain pituitaries more readily. In 1964, he notes there were 1.8 million deaths in the U.S., but only 325,000 autopsies were performed and only 50,000 pituitaries were collected.

The final answer will be synthetic HGH. At the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. C. H. Li took an important step in 1966 when he identified the structure of the HGH molecule, a complex sequence of 188 amino acids. "I cannot say when we will synthesize it," Li said last week, "but work is going very well."

TIME
AUGUST 2, 1968
FIFTY CENTS

SEIZURE AT SEA

Newsweek
FEBRUARY 5, 1968 50c

McKUSICK & FRIENDS AT BALTIMORE PARTY
*Definition comes before treatment.*

## GENETICS

### The Little People

Assembling more than 250 dwarfs and midgets for a lawn party and a whirl of dances may seem like a Barnum and Bailey act, but last week that many members of an organization called the Little People of America convened in Baltimore for medically scientific as well as social reasons. The hosts were Dr. Victor A. McKusick and 15 colleagues at the Moore Clinic of Johns Hopkins Hospital, the nation's leading investigators into the causes of dwarfism and possible remedies for it. Their invited guests were essential past and future participants in Moore Clinic research.

The Little People's organization was founded in 1957 by Billy Barty, one of the few who conform to the popular misconception that most midgets are in show business. Barty is, and has done well.* Now 43, Barty stands 3 ft. 9 in. He arrived with Wife Shirley, 4 ft. 3 in., and their daughter Lori, who at age five measures 3 ft. 1 in. Anthropometrists say Lori probably will never top 4 ft. 7 in., so the Little People classify her as "Little Little."

**Medically Oriented.** McKusick's team had already examined most of the association members, piecing together family trees, taking blood and cell specimens to study chromosomes and hormones and X-raying joints to look at cartilage-bone defects. A great deal of work remains to be done, so 18 Little People arrived days ahead of time. They were admitted to the hospital for detailed tests by orthopedists, ophthalmologists, and otolaryngologists. Especially concerned were the gynecologists, for dwarf women's babies usually have to be delivered by caesarean section. Of the dozen conventions the Little People have had, this was by far the most medically oriented. To handle all the examinations, a temporary hospital room was set up in the Lord Baltimore Hotel, convention headquarters.

All this work is necessary, says McKusick, because to treat or prevent dwarfism it first must be clearly defined. That is not as easy as it sounds. Beyond the rough classification of midgets as people of short but otherwise normal body build, and dwarfs as having some other physical abnormality in addition to short stature, McKusick lists 20 different conditions as causes of subnormal growth. Among the conventioneers, he found at least one representative of almost all the types, and some who appeared to fit no known category, suggesting that the classification table will now have to be extended.

"We have," says McKusick, "been paying special attention to the children, whose growth is not complete, whose epiphyses [the growing ends of long bones] haven't yet closed. We have more than 30 of them here." The hope is that some of these children can be helped, by injections of human growth hormone, to grow to 5 ft. or more, in which case they would no longer qualify as Little People.

**Concession to Bigness.** The likeliest candidates for this help are children with otherwise normal physiques whose pituitary glands do not produce enough of the hormone. Even for them the supply problem is forbidding. Growth hormone from animals is useless for man unless it is specially processed, and little of this is now produced. Human growth hormone must be extracted, in minute quantities, from the pituitaries of cadavers. Each year the National Pituitary Agency in Baltimore gets about 75,000 of these glands, mostly from pathologists exploring the skull in postmortem examinations. The agency supplies the Hopkins with extracts from the glands. It takes the hormone from 150 or more glands to treat one child for a year. For victims of the commonest type of dwarfism, achondroplasia, marked by short limbs, large heads and "scooped out" noses, no hormonal or other treatment is effective.

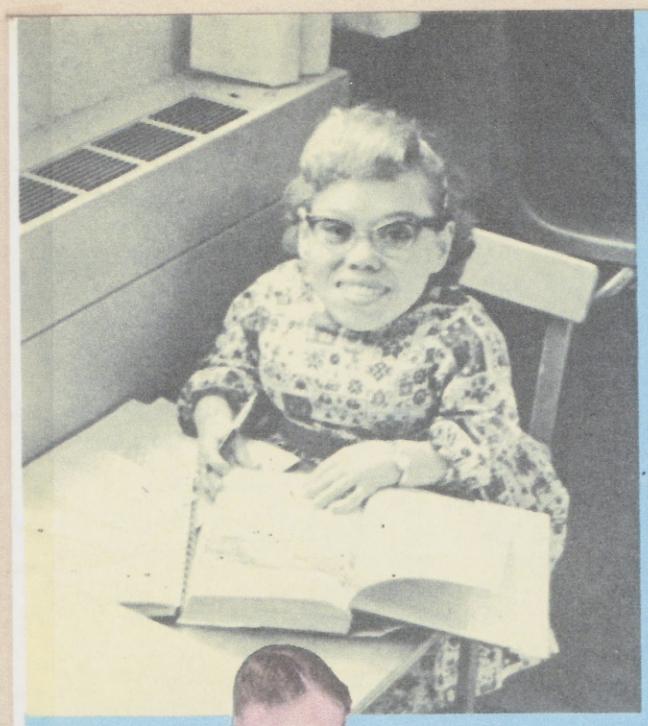
Regardless of whether they can be helped to grow, most of the Little People are determined to show that they can compete on an equal basis with big people in today's world and do not have to fall back upon the circus for a livelihood. Robert Spector, last week's convention chairman, is a Ph.D. working on chemistry patents for Du Pont. Lee Kitchens, an electronics engineer for Texas Instruments and the outgoing Little People's president, literally soared into town, flying his own plane from Richardson, Texas. Since he stands only 4 ft. 1 in., the rudder pedals on his Piper Tri-Pacer have been built up about nine inches to meet his feet.

* As has Michael Dunn (*Ballad of the Sad Café, Ship of Fools*), who missed the Baltimore meeting. He was in Europe making a movie.

MARCH 30, 1969

A power/LINE PAPER FOR JUNIORS

Counselor



Daddy made my furniture. It is scaled to my 34 inches.

BECAUSE I'm one of the smallest "little people" in the world—just 34 inches tall—I attract attention wherever I go. I'm not much bigger than the large walking, talking dolls you see in toy stores. Yet I'm 25 years old and am attending Tennessee Temple Schools in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

I have an electric golf cart that I drive around town. When I drive it to the drugstore, people often stare at me and ask questions. Children are especially curious about my size. Sometimes they are rude too. But those kids who know me call out to me and call me the "little woman."

I love children now and like to give them rides on my cart. But before I knew the Lord, when I was in high school, kids scared me.

I'd get out of high school early and pedal my little bike home. But grade-school children would surround and stop me. They'd laugh and stare. They were so big! I was never sure what they'd do to me. One day a boy said hello and I answered him. He turned to the others and said, "Hey, it speaks!"

Since Jesus came into my life, He took away many of my fears. Now as I drive children around, I tell them about

*continued on page 3*

# I WALK, I TALK, and I'm in BIBLE SCHOOL

**told by Phyllis Penton**
**written by Grace Fox**
**photos by James R. Adair**

Doug Parlin, basketball star at Tennessee Temple, chats with me. The tricycle is a great help in getting around school.

When I travel any distance, I drive my own golf cart. My best friend "Stokey" sometimes rides with me.

no one spoke for a long minute. Then Lutali, the first little girl, spoke softly. "You cook the rice like the mother of the house, yes?"

"That's right," Eliza answered. *Oh, it was going to be wonderful to be a spiritual mother to these new daughters!* Eliza thought. Quickly she spoke to God. "Dear Lord, help me to be a good mother," she pleaded.

Soon there were dozens of girls in school. Many received Jesus. Eliza was very happy as she watched them learn to trust and follow Him. But one thing troubled her. "I cannot hope to be here to see these girls bring their children to school," she thought.

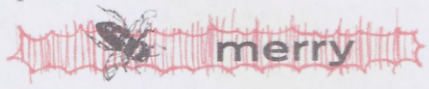
As it happened, Eliza was there much longer than she had expected. God seemed pleased with the school and blessed it over and over. Eliza taught three generations—over 1,000 girls. Of these, 600 became Christians. Many of them taught in the villages. Others took the Gospel back into their own homes.

"Though I have never had any children of my own," Eliza Agnew said, "I am called 'Mother of a Thousand Daughters.'"

Even after she was 70, girls came to her to learn about Jesus. Eliza Agnew added "daughters" to her large family until God called her home on June 14, 1883. She was 76.

Mission bulletins said that Eliza Agnew did more for the education of women in Ceylon than anyone else. More people could read and write in Ceylon than in all of the countries where missionaries worked!

God had blessed Eliza's childhood dream and turned it into 44 years of service for Him on her "pink" island!




Why should you always carry a watch when crossing a desert? answer:

Because there's a spring in it.

*John Moore*

## OUR POEMS

***EASTER JOY***

Easter is the brightest day,
  In the Bible you have read . . .
It is the day in which
  Christ rose up from the dead.
He died for us to deliver us,
  From our sinful behavior,
So that He would be as you should know,
  Our true and living Saviour.

**Brian Blackard, 9, Bloomington, Minnesota**

***OUR EXAMPLE***

He taught us to pray;
He taught us to give.
He died on the cross
That all might live.
He rose from the dead
After three dark days,
And now we give Jesus
All of our praise.

**Timothy MacIntosh, 11, Vancouver, B.C., Canada**

***SPRING***

It's spring!
The flowers are blooming.
The grass is turning green.
Birds are singing and new babies are born.
The trees are bearing leaves.
The sky is blue.
God is showing us His creation.
If someone should ask, "How do you know God is alive?" answer him this:
"Everytime I hear a newborn baby cry,
Or touch a leaf, or see the sky,"
Then I know why I know He's alive.
For only He could do such marvelous things as these.

**Raenena Decker, 11, Marion, Indiana**

"The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1).

### I Walk, I Talk

*continued from page 1*

Jesus and how He forgave my sins and helps me. I also explain the Bible references printed on my golf cart.

One reference is I Corinthians 15:10a—"But by the grace of God I am what I am." This verse seemed to fit me so well that I chose it as my life verse. I know that God made me and I must accept myself just as I am.

I was just two years old and my brother Phillip was four when a doctor found that we had a bone disease. He told my parents that we would not grow anymore but otherwise we'd be normal. (My brother is two inches taller than I am but is totally handicapped. I use crutches or my tricycle to go any distance on campus.)

The doctor's report made my parents very unhappy at first. But then they decided to do all they could to help us live normal lives.

Daddy fixed up our home in Lorain, Ohio, so Phil and I could get around it by ourselves. He lowered light switches, door handles, and fixtures.

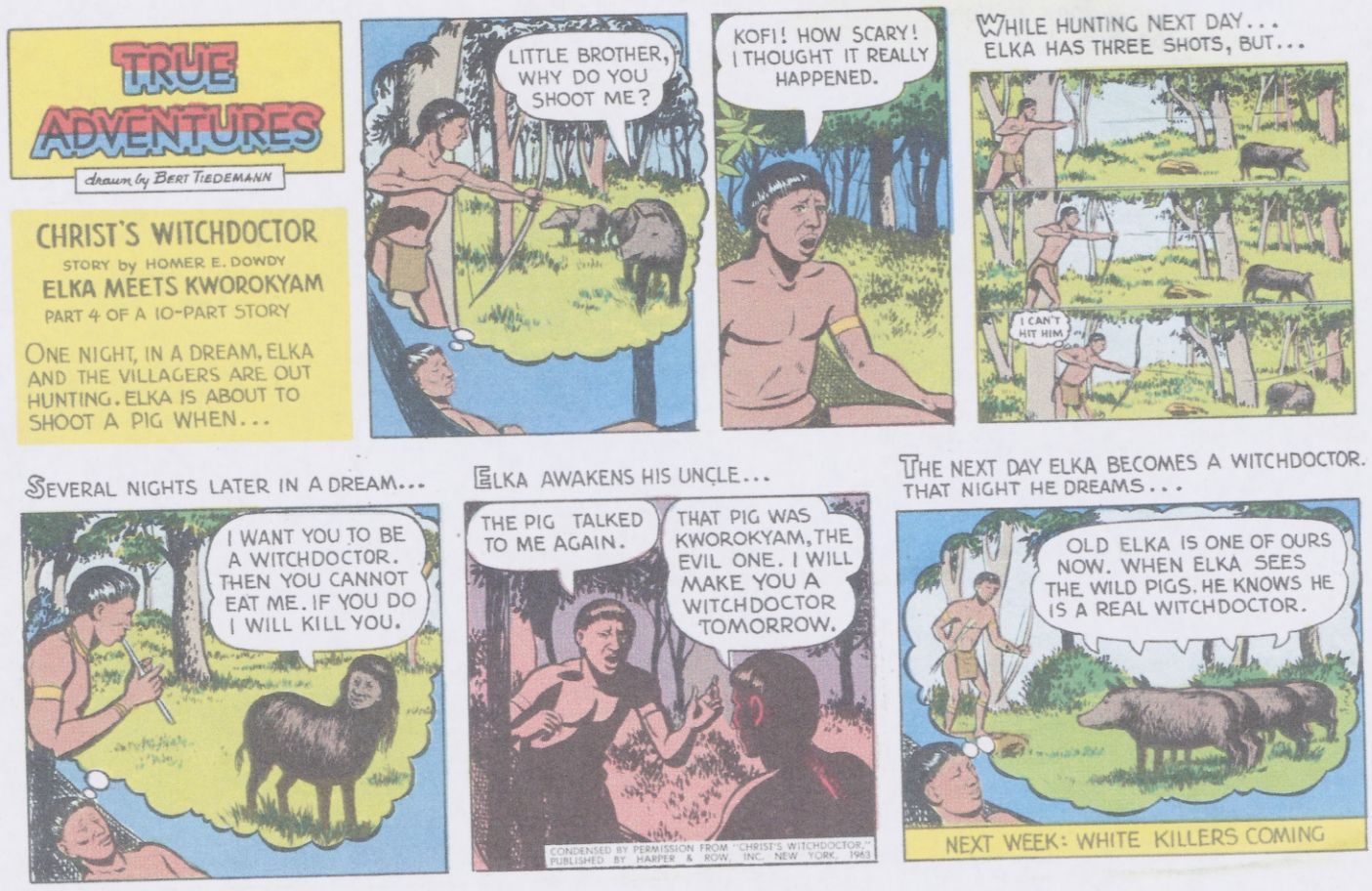
In my room at home I have a tiny vanity and a closet with a rod I can reach. I have my own typing table and typewriter. I also have a sewing machine and make many of my own dresses. Mom and a good friend make clothes for me, too.

I had a wonderful childhood. I have lots of cousins and they all accepted me. It wasn't until I was in junior high and couldn't date like other girls that I felt different from others.

Then when I was a sophomore in high school, I began to have trouble hearing, so I left school. After that Grandma Penton and Aunts Pat and Mary taught me at home for three years. With their help, I finished high school in 1965.

I remember my sophomore year in high school for another reason. That year I made a kind of bargain with God. I asked Him to come into my heart. I thought then that He'd start me growing normally. But

*continued on page 4*


TRUE ADVENTURES
drawn by BERT TIEDEMANN
CHRIST'S WITCHDOCTOR
STORY by HOMER E. DOWDY
ELKA MEETS KWOROKYAM
PART 4 OF A 10-PART STORY
ONE NIGHT, IN A DREAM, ELKA AND THE VILLAGERS ARE OUT HUNTING. ELKA IS ABOUT TO SHOOT A PIG WHEN...
LITTLE BROTHER, WHY DO YOU SHOOT ME?
KOFI! HOW SCARY! I THOUGHT IT REALLY HAPPENED.
WHILE HUNTING NEXT DAY... ELKA HAS THREE SHOTS, BUT...
I CAN'T HIT HIM
SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER IN A DREAM...
I WANT YOU TO BE A WITCHDOCTOR. THEN YOU CANNOT EAT ME. IF YOU DO I WILL KILL YOU.
ELKA AWAKENS HIS UNCLE...
THE PIG TALKED TO ME AGAIN.
THAT PIG WAS KWOROKYAM, THE EVIL ONE. I WILL MAKE YOU A WITCHDOCTOR TOMORROW.
CONDENSED BY PERMISSION FROM "CHRIST'S WITCHDOCTOR," PUBLISHED BY HARPER & ROW, INC., NEW YORK, 1963
THE NEXT DAY ELKA BECOMES A WITCHDOCTOR. THAT NIGHT HE DREAMS...
OLD ELKA IS ONE OF OURS NOW. WHEN ELKA SEES THE WILD PIGS, HE KNOWS HE IS A REAL WITCHDOCTOR.
NEXT WEEK: WHITE KILLERS COMING

*continued from page 3*

nothing happened. I hadn't really trusted Jesus as my Saviour. I was very unhappy.

For years I pretended to be a Christian. I went to church regularly and was even baptized. But not until I came to Tennessee Temple Schools did I finally admit sincerely that I needed Jesus.

Then what peace God gave me. At last I knew God loved me and had a plan for my life.

When I was accepted at Tennessee Temple, Daddy got busy right away. He made me a small desk and wardrobe for clothes. He bought me a tricycle to ride from class to class. He even put a basket on it for heavy college books.

Everyone was wonderful when I started school. Both teachers and students did so much to make me feel at home. Their friendliness has helped me overcome many fears.

One dear friend is "Stokey"—Linda Stokes. She plays basketball and is 5′ 8″ tall. That's 68″—exactly two times my height! She helped me overcome my fear of crowds by urging me to go to basketball games.

Dan Manley has been a special help ever since I came to school, too. For instance, he lifts me up onto my chair in the dining hall. Other fellows carry me up and down the stairs. Their kindness has helped me overcome my fear of fellows.

Christian friends here at school have proved their faithfulness over and over.

In May 1967 I was in an accident. A car hit my cart as I was driving some girls home from a Laundromat. The other girls weren't hurt, but I sailed 15′ into the air and landed on my head.

They rushed me to the hospital and stitched up my head. Practically the whole school came to see how I was. Stokey spent that night with me and came each day to visit.

The accident happened during final exam week. One dear teacher, Mrs. Flynn, came and helped me study. I took my exams right in the hospital.

That same May, Dr. Lee Roberson, president of our school, gave me the Hurdle Award. That's an award given by the school to someone who has overcome a handicap. I was grateful to the Lord for the honor and love expressed in the award.

When I leave school I want to work with other "little people." Many of them are unhappy because of their small size. They can't find work and blame God for their problems.

God has helped me so much through loving Christian friends! Now I want other "little people" to know that God loves them too.

ALTHOUGH HE stands four inches less than five feet tall, Robert Ray Burgan still uses standard appliances and fixtures to keep house in his Corte Madera home, thanks to a number of strategically-located two-step ladders. At left, he stands on one of the ladders to feed the upright washer in his kitchen. In center photo, another comes in handy at dish-washing time, while his pet cat perches on the "rumble seat." At right, the bathroom ladder boosts Bob to mirror-height for shaving. (Photos by Gil Pearson)

# When You Stand But Four-Feet-Eight

By GIL PEARSON

If holding your job depended on loading a truck with 90-pound, five-foot sacks of fertilizer, and you stood but four-feet-eight-inches tall — what the heck would you do about it?

The solution becomes a matter of brain rather than brawn as worked out by one Robert Ray Burgan, a 125-pound employee of the California State Division of Highways.

"I can't lift that much bulk," Bob says, "so I break it open and load by bucketsful."

Marinites by the thousands know Bob by sight because he has held on to his Highway 101 landscape maintenance job between the Golden Gate Bridge and Marinwood and Tiburon over the past six years.

He says: "Weeding and brush-hidden litter clearing are my forte because I am close to the ground and don't have to stoop as far as tall people."

**BOB BURGAN'S** gutsy attitude toward his job is in character with his total outlook on life. He looks you right in the eye when he says:

"God put little people on earth for some reason. He would not have done this if there wasn't some calling for us."

And he adds:

"I can't believe that anybody, regardless of size, goes through life without problems. Other than being short, the little people lead lives very similar to average-sized persons. Our special hurdles are clothes and jobs.

"I used to buy clothes and then have them fitted. But today alteration cost is such that it pays to get made-to-order suits.

"I've had a job every since I finished Tamalpais High School because I found I liked the landscaping field and was willing to learn it in courses offered by College of Marin and the state highway department. I hope to eventually take the exam for foreman.

"But many little people have a hard time finding jobs. Those who can convince employers that they are just as capable as big people usually prove their abilities in a short time. We have people in all the different fields — machinists, teachers, accountants, engineers, and on and on.

"Contrary to popular speculation, only about 2 per cent of America's dwarfs are in show business."

**WHEN WE HAD** completed our interview and picture-taking at Bob Burgan's home in Corte Madera, we drove off with the feeling that we had just met a very fine clean-cut and sensible gentleman.

Aged 30 and still single ("I

Continued on Page M5

1969

# Bob Burgan, One Of The Little People, Has Done All Right

## *Marinite Proves That Dwarfs Can Lead A Very Normal Life*

Continued from Page M2

may marry within the next two years"), this only child of normal-sized parents lives alone with his cat in a neatly kept three-bedroom house which contains all modern appliances. His interests are widespread.

He is a camera bug ("just bought a new Spotmatic Pentax"). He has played the drums in various combos throughout Marin ("the Cordlords, in particular"). He directs the handbell choir at the Mill Valley Methodist Church where he also sings bass for the regular Sunday choir.

**IN ADDITION,** Bob can drive a motorcycle. And he rides horseback and has the hobby of collecting horse figurines, plaques and paintings. A large-scale copy of the painting "Free As The Wind" is featured in his living room.

He drives himself to work in a 1967 Dodge equipped with one-foot extensions of the foot pedals ("they cost me $50"). He cooks, and he does his laundry in an upright washer-over-dryer which he can reach by standing on one of a number of his specially-built two-step step ladders. He uses others for shaving and doing the dishes.

And he dances at parties given by little people.

**WHILE BOB** has a quick wit ("we little ones try to think big"), he does not smile readily. Perhaps this is because he is obsessed with the drive to help other, less aggressive little people.

We soon found out that his only interest in a feature story about him is that his experiences might provide opportunity and inspiration for other little people in Marin to learn that they can broaden their lives if they will but reach out, as he has, and overcome timidity.

He says, "I want little folks under four feet 10 inches or their parents to write me at 629 Meadowsweet Drive in Corte Madera. I want to tell them of the many advantages they can enjoy by joining our national association, the Little People of America Inc.

"I, myself, delayed joining for many years because I felt I should try getting along in the world of tall people on my own hook. But that was a mistake. The association really does a lot of good psychologically and practically.

**"FOR INSTANCE,** there is Mrs. Harriet Stickney who is a member of our District 12 in San Francisco and who is in charge of the Parent-Auxiliary. This service helps parents who have dwarfs to help these youngsters solve their problems in getting along with regular-size children.

"For example, parents who have a little person and also children of normal size are advised to treat the little one exactly like the others and not to show any deference."

"In my own case," Bob recalls, "my parents would tell me to go and get my own chair rather than get it for me. But I must also add that their affection is something I'll always cherish.

"As a child I was annoyed by the pranks of the big kids, but as I grew older (if not up) I got so I just laughed it off and forgot it."

Bob East, another member of Little People Of America, makes automobile pedal extensions for the little people all around the nation.

**NO REPORTER** today could close out a story of this type without editorializing that the 850 dwarf members of Little People Of America Inc., one of America's most overlooked minorities, take a positive posture toward meeting and resolving their problems.

Bob Burgan is representative of that affirmative attitude.

THE VERY busy Bob Burgan, at one of his several special interests and activities, directs the youthful handbell choir of Mill Valley's Methodist Church. He also sings bass with the church's voice choir.

bos and bands. At right, he displays prized horse figurines llection of some 50 pieces. He has been riding horses since

THE 1967 DODGE automobile that Bob Burgan drives has been equipped with special that they can be reached by the driver's short legs. The extensions were made by a friend.

BOB BURGAN SHOWS his guest, interviewer Gil Pearson, two of his many diverse interests. At left, he bangs out some rhythm rolls on the trap drums which he has played for a number of years with various Marin County combos and bands. At right, he displays prized horse figurines from his collection of some 50 pieces. He has been riding horses since boyhood.

Louis Scharrer (Great Falls) Judy Lee (Sunburst) and groom Bob Burgen at drums

The Orlan Berg family--a thrill to hear !!

## The Little People Meet

# *Don't Look Down on Us, Pleads The Nation's Dwarf Population*

ROLLING MEADOWS, Ill. (AP) — Most dwarfs don't consider themselves handicapped and can do 98 per cent of the jobs normal people can do, Gerald Rasa Says.

Rasa, 23, is regional director of Little People of America, which is holding its Midwest convention in this Chicago suburb this weekend. He said dwarfs — persons under 4 feet 10 inches tall—are discriminated against in hiring, but, he said, most do not consider themselves oppressed.

Many dwarfs, Rasa said, have the skills to qualify for jobs but are passed over anyway. "Like in my case: They couldn't see why I couldn't do the job and yet they couldn't picture me doing it either."

He is a college news director.

"We should be given the opportunity to let us show them," Rasa said. "All we're asking for is the opportunity to prove ourselves."

The purpose of the convention is to teach dwarfs how to obtain jobs, to discuss problems of living in a taller world, to eliminate the dwarf's "can't do" attitude, to catch up on the latest medical research on dwarfism and to have fun.

Driving a car, climbing into a chair, switching on a light, and walking up steps are everyday problems for the little person.

"To get our perspective, just get down on your hands and knees at home, look up and try to go about your normal activities," Rasa said.

The automobile problem is overcome with pedal extensions. Climbing into a chair is facilitated by pivoting on one's thumbs and making use of well-developed arm and hand muscles.

Reaching lght switches and myriad other problems are solved with a telescoping rod with a hook at the end. The rod can lift up to 10 pounds. Another telescoping rod with a coin holder and a metal extension brings a pay phone within reach.

Dwarfs should become independent as individuals, he said, so they can develop their talents to the fullest.

"Parents should show their dwarf child that he 'can do' anything. Maybe he can't do it as quickly but he can do it, slower or in a different way," Rasa stated.

**Mr. and Mrs. James Hagen and Jill**

***Anything You Can Do, We Can Do Better***

1969

'Skyline Press' – San Bruno – April 15, 1970

## "Just Because You're Short Doesn't Mean. . ."

# Little People Reveal True Image

by Joye Ogrodowski

Little People of America, providing the on-looker with a fairy-land image, is a nationwide organization of dwarfed people 4'10" tall and under.

Fresno was the sight of the annual convention of District 12, including California, Hawaii and Nevada last month.

"We get together for business and friendship," Mr. Al Stickney, District Director, explained.

A strong belief held by the 4'6" tall leader is "just because you're short doesn't mean you don't have anything between your ears."

He stands as proof of this statement himself, for he has been a federally licensed airplane mechanic for 20 years.

Mrs. Stickney was a primary school teacher for 12 years prior to her marriage.

"People seem to think you have to be tall to be an effective teacher. The children could identify with me though.

"One student once commented to me that it's nice to be able to see the teacher eye to eye," Mrs. Stickney added.

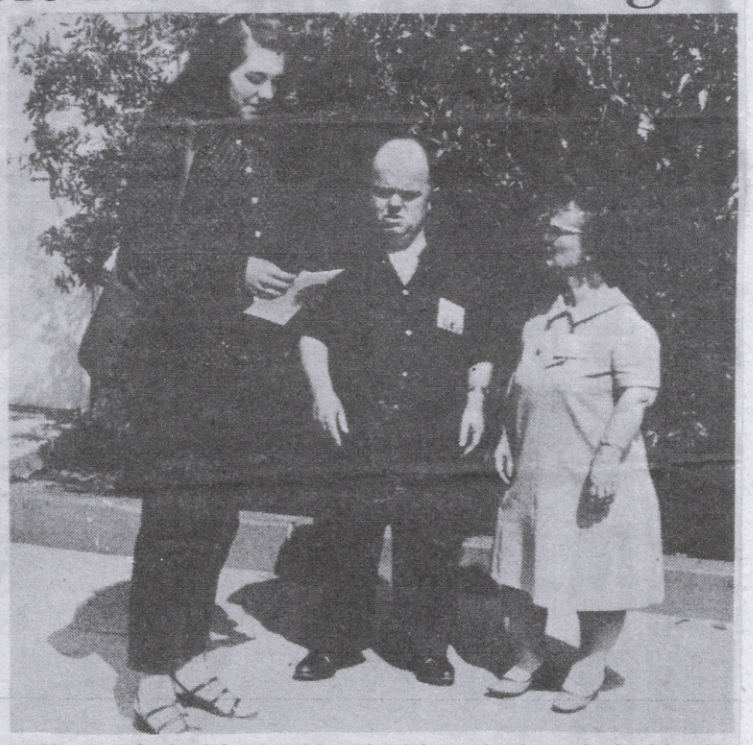
Miss Carolyn Strange graduated from Stanford in 1966 and is in her third year of teaching at Tracy High School.

Though a successful instructor, Miss Strange admits to having difficulty in buying clothes.

"My mom makes most of my clothes, though I can fit into a size 10 in children's wear.

"While in Florence about six years ago, I had a dye made of my foot. Each pair of shoes cost me $85, but they fit, so it's worth it."

This little person also is a singer and has soloed with the Stockton Symphony.



**California District Director, Mr. Al Stickney, is pictured with his wife and Skyline Press reporter Joye Ogrodowski at the annual convention of Little People of America, held at Fresno. Residing in San Bruno, Mr. Stickney is an airplane mechanic at San Francisco International Airport. Mrs. Stickney is a former grammar school teacher.**

**— Photo by Ken Bisio**

Andre Boursse, a student at Los Angeles Valley Junior College, plans to become a geography teacher.

His part-time job as a playground director in Burbank suits him well. In 1967 and 1968 Andre held the California Junior College State Championship in gymnastics.

Despite the success of these little people, they do have problems.

"Parents of dwarfed children think they've got something to hide, something they can't do anything with," Mr. Stickney explained.

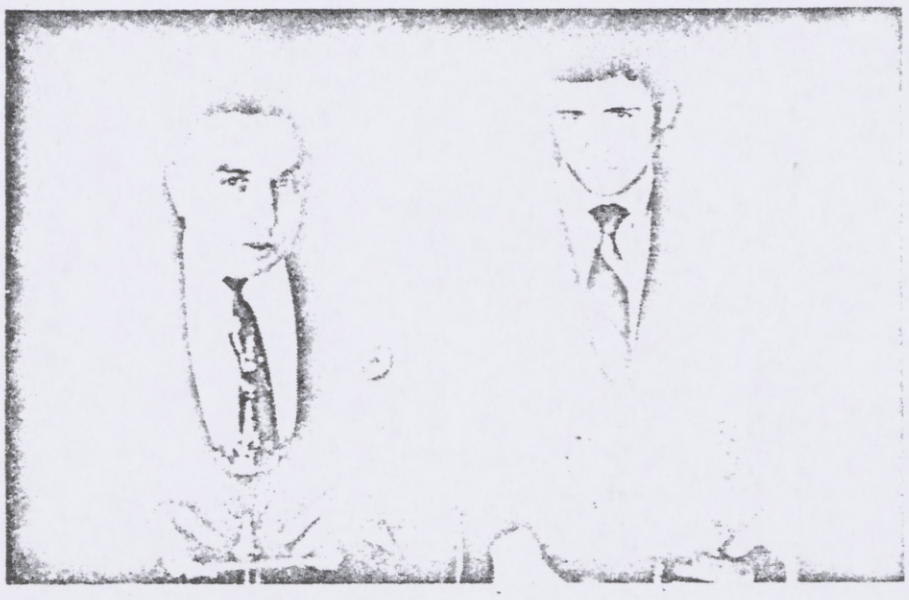
"It hurts us when they don't understand. This is why we give the children and teenagers special attention, because we know what it's like," he added.

Mr. Billy Barty founded the organization in 1957. He has been in show business for many years, though less than three percent of the total population of little people are employed as such.

Mr. Stickney feels that this poses another problem. When they reach the parents they must make them realize that show business is not the only answer. Carolyn and Andre are proof of this fact.

1970

A PORTLAND MAN, long active in advancing opportunities for handicapped persons in Oregon has been named for national honors as Department of the Army Handicapped Employee of the Year for 1971.



Wallace E. (Wally) Brooks, Portland U.S. Army Engineer District Engineering Service Branch Chief, (shown on the left above in May, 1970, when he was honored with Tim Votaw by the Multnomah County E-H Committee) will receive the award in the office of the Secretary of the Army in Washington, D.C., April 5. One of the ten Federal agency nominees will be announced as winner of the national title as Federal Handicapped Employee of the Year in ceremonies the following day.

Brooks, a runner-up to the Department of the Army nominee in last year's contest, is one of the more than 60 handicapped persons employed in the Portland Army Engineer District. He has received numerous honors for his contributions to the program for employment and recognition of handicapped persons, including being named Multnomah County's Handicapped American for 1970.

The Portland Engineer District received honors as Handicapped Employer of the Year from the American Legion in 1970 and from the Governor's Committee and the Multnomah County Committee in 1971.

Brooks is a member of the Governor's Committee and the Multnomah County Committee for Employment of the Handicapped, the Indoor Sports Club for handicapped persons, the Little People of America, and Guys and Dolls of Portland.

The 55-year-old award winner, physically handicapped since birth, has not considered his abilities limited by his 4-foot, 2-inch height. During his high school years in Mossyrock, Washington, he delivered a paper route by bicycle. Before joining the Portland Army Engineer District in 1941, he worked as a sawmill tallyman, timekeeper, service station attendant and shipwright helper. His awards include commendations for his work with the Corps of Engineers, and for his efforts in behalf of the Portland Fire Department Toy and Joy Makers, savings bond drives and for cerebral palsied youngsters.--from a Department of the Army News Release, Feb. 25,

## DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE LITTLE PEOPLE

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, discrimination is a problem with which we are all familiar. However, we seldom consider discrimination which might be occuring in this Nation against the "little people," the midgets and dwarfs who are often denied equal opportunities merely because they are physically different.

I have recently received a letter from Mr. Wallace E. Brooks, of Portland, Oreg., describing this discrimination, as well as discrimination which is occurring against the handicapped who are nonveterans. Mr. Brooks makes an eloquent plea for equal rights for all handicapped persons. I ask unanimous consent that his fine letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PORTLAND, OREG., *September 14, 1971.*

Hon. MARK O. HATFIELD,
*U.S. Senate,*
*Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR HATFIELD: Since you are a member of the Oregon Delegation in Washington, D.C. and having had a Governor's Committee on "Hire the Handicapped Person" in Oregon during your eight years as Governor, I am sure you are aware of many of the handicap problems; however, I have a few you may not have realized that need to be corrected someway or another.

This country now has many laws on equal employment without regard to race, sex, creed, color, or national origin, and we continue to hear and read more each day through radio, television, and newspapers against discrimination of minority groups in order that they be assured of full and impartial consideration for initial employment and an equal opportunity to receive training and develop skills for advancement. However, at no time have we ever heard any mention or reference to the Little People of America in these laws, who are of short stature, inherited from birth, and are considered as midgets and dwarfs by the general public. It would be greatly appreciated if you would look into this matter and see that the "Little People" are given equal opportunities in securing employment and benefits justly due them.

I should also like to mention another point for your consideration. Have you thought about the possibility of discrimination in the National "Employ the Handicapped Program?" We continue to hear and read more each day on hire the Veteran handicap or hire the returning Vietnam handicap veteran. However, at no time have we heard a reference to hire the non-veteran handicap due to birth or who became handicapped later in life. No individual ever asked for his disability; therefore, why should the Government make an issue in specifying certain types of handicaps such as hire the Veteran handicap, posters and folders with servicemen's pictures, and so forth. Why not say "Employ the Handicapped" which would include all the handicaps regardless of how they obtained their disability. Have you thought about all the benefits a veteran handicaps receives such as disability Federal pension, free medical and hospital service, special schooling, special equipment to enable them to get about, additional points on Civil Service and State examinations and so forth. The non-veteran handicap receives none of these benefits. "Is this fair?" Remembering that most all handicaps are American citizens and should be treated as such, regardless of how or where they obtained their disability either through military service, civilian life, birth, or inherited such as midgets and dwarfs.

Have you ever given thought about the extra living expense these people have over the normal size person such as special-made clothes, special shoes, automobiles requiring special accessories and built-up operating equipment or the alternative of using taxi cabs for transportation to and from work, and the necessity of having homes built or remodeled to fit their size (midgets and dwarfs) or their type of disability? Wouldn't you say this extra cost of living more than offsets giving them an additional tax exemption on their Federal and State income tax each year? The blind are now receiving this additional exemption.

Senator, wouldn't you say all American handicapped people should be given the same opportunities and considerations regardless of where, when, or how they acquired their disability, remembering the important fact that none of them asked for their disability. I am sure you will agree this is a program where discrimination in no way should be allowed. It would be greatly appreciated if you could enact legislation giving equal opportunities and benefits to all handicapped people so justly due them.

If additional information is needed, please do not hesitate to write me. If possible, I would appreciate the opportunity of discussing this further with you in person when you are in Oregon.

Sincerely yours,

WALLACE E. BROOKS.

# HANDICAPPED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Mr. Wallace E. Brooks, Supervisory Clerk at the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland, Oregon, has been selected as the "Department of Army Handicapped Employee of the Year for 1971."

Four feet two inches in height, Wallace (Wally) Brooks stands tall in the eyes of those persons who know and work with him. Born with a congenital dislocation of the hips and back, Mr. Brooks had been rejected many times by potential employers because of his size before entering the Federal Civil Service.

Only after convincing Federal officials to employ him on a trial basis was he hired. He proved himself by earning promotions to his current supervisory position. His efficiency on the job is attested to by the numerous awards and other forms of recognition which he has received over the past 30 years from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Besides carrying on a career, Mr. Brooks has long been active in organizations for the handicapped and has been of assistance to many handicapped individuals. Among other activities, Mr. Brooks helped to establish the "Double 0" Cerebral Palsy Center in Portland, Oregon, a workshop of approximately 30 cerebral palsied girls and boys.

In 1967 Mr. Brooks was appointed by the Governor of Oregon to serve on the Governor's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped. He has been cited by the Governor on several occasions for his outstanding contributions toward assisting the handicapped. He also serves as a very active member of the Multnomah (Oregon) County Committee for Employment of the Handicapped.

Aside from work and organizational activities, Mr. Brooks enjoys a pleasant home life with his wife, who is also small in stature but large in personality and accomplishment. They live in Portland and devote much of their spare time to their mutual hobby of gardening.

Mr. Wallace E. Brooks, shown on the job at the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland, Oregon.

For his selection as the Army Handicapped Employee of the Year, Mr. Brooks will be presented a meritorious Civilian Service Award at a Pentagon ceremony. He is also Army's nominee for the Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employee of the Year.

# Press

the Snake River

ay 29, 1972 | Eight Pages | Single Copy 10c

ABOUT 50 MEMBERS of the Little People of America spent three eventful days in the Mini-Cassia area for their semi-annual meeting held at the Ponderosa Inn. This was the first time for this district to meet in the Mini-Cassia area. Members received information concerning employment, clothing and handy gadgets for more convenience of little structured people. Pictured from left are National President and Mrs. Joe Alexander, Goldendale, Wash., and Mrs. Al Stickney, national vice president and Al Stickney, district director, both San Bruno, Calif. (SIP Photo)

# Little People Think Big At Burley Meet

By ARVETTA SAVAGE
SIP Minidoka Writer

"Dwarfism is considered a nuisance to us and not a handicap," said Mrs. Harriet Stickney, San Bruno, Calif., national vice president of the Little People of America, Inc., which met over the weekend at the Ponderosa Inn.

Mrs. Stickney was one of about 50 LPA members who met here for a district semi-annual meeting. District 11 includes Idaho, Alaska, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. LPA members includes persons born in dwarfism as well as normal size parents of Little People. There are three divisions in the membership, adults known as "Little People," teenagers group, and the children under 11 years of age known as "Little Littles."

The group gathers twice each year in this district to interchange ideas to assist members find solutions to problems unique to a little person and offer moral support. Ideas are exchanged concerning employment, handy gadgets for more convenient living, tips on buying clothing, importance of education and most of all constructive assistance to help the little person cope with many difficulties involved in living among a society of taller people.

The "little people" have problems similar to those of the taller set, due to the general public considering a very tall youth older than he really is and expecting him to act the part of a mature adult. On the other hand, the "little people" however older than persons their own size, are treated as a very young child with the public asking indirect questions concerning the little person.

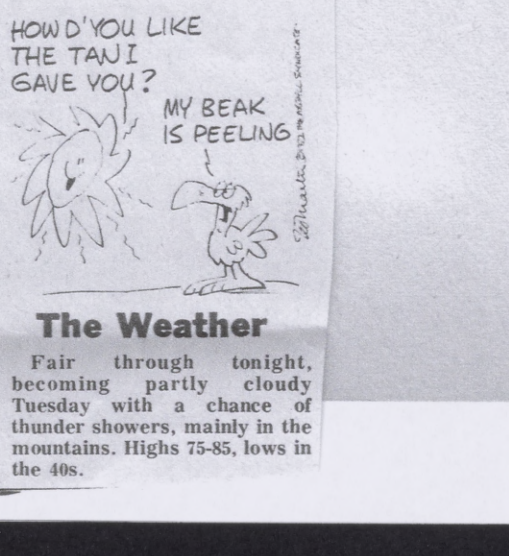
Mrs. Sitckney said the Little People have a great desire to be addressed to directly and stressed the need of especially the younger set, who although may be entering into their teens, are often treated as a two-year old.

Education is the biggest item stressed by the LPA, and members are urged to make the most of their mental abilities. They work together in a positive manner with employment agencies in attempts to educate the business world that size doesn't necessarily determine ability.

"Years ago it was the feeling of the public that we were good for only show business — side shows for a carnival," she said, "but we have more aspirations than show business and would like to follow other and better professions."

The vice president noted some of the difficulties she encountered during the 12 years she served as a school teacher, adding that the greatest seemed to be a continual need to "prove" herself to the public that although her physical stature was little, there were other means of keeping the

(Continued on Page 2)




## The Weather

**Fair through tonight, becoming partly cloudy Tuesday with a chance of thunder showers, mainly in the mountains. Highs 75-85, lows in the 40s.**

# Nation Honors Dead

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Memorial Day, winding up a three-day bumper-to-bumper weekend with the

IN CHARGE of the Little People of America, Inc., semi-annual meeting held over the weekend at the Ponderosa Inn were these leaders and local members, standing front, Polly and Sandy Howard, both Rupert; center row, left, Joe Alexander, Goldendale, Wash., national president; Mrs. Jack Spracker, Tacoma, Wash., district director; and Jennie and Lyle Myers, both Burley, members; back left, Mrs. Wally Howard, Rupert, member; and Mrs. Harriet Stickney, San Bruno, Calif., national vice president. (SIP Photo)

Chicago Tribune
Thursday, July 27, 1972

# The Little People Work on a Big P

BY JOAN BECK

● IF THEY had lived in ancient Egypt, they would have been hailed as gods. In the Caesars' Rome, they would have been prized as counselors, jesters, or gladiators. During the Middle Ages, they would have lived with royalty. And during the Renaissance, they would have been the subject of renowned artists or treated as pets.

It's only in recent years that dwarfs and midgets have become understood for what they really are — men and women of normal intelligence who have abnormalities in growth which limit them markedly in height and cause innumerable problems in everyday life.

It's these common difficulties which have brought more than 400 midgets, dwarfs, and their families to a Hillside hotel for the 14th annual convention of Little People of America which ends Saturday. A national organization limited to those under 4'10" tall, LPA was started in 1957 by actor Billy Barty and now has more than 2,000 members.

Watching the Little People settle into the hotel for the 5-day meeting points up only a few of the staggering difficulties they encounter in a world that is out of proportion for them. A petite grandmother stands on a chair to dial a pay phone. Elevator buttons and door knobs have been lowered. A platform built at the front desk helps Little People talk at eye level to reservation clerks.

But chairs are still too high for Little People's feet to touch the floor. It's an effort to reach the water faucets in the rest rooms, to eat at normal-sized restaurant tables, even to climb a few average-sized steps.

What binds Little People together in an obvious warmth is the relief of finding others who understand the frustrations and share the problems of being Lilliputians in the world of Gullivers. For, other than their short stature, they are a diverse group.

LPA members at the convention range in age from 2 to almost 80, with large contingents of children and teens, called "Little Littles." There are accountants, artists, actors, teachers, secretaries, students, writers, engineers, bankers, homemakers and a wide range of other achieving adults.

**Dr. Judy Hall and Dr. Arthur Siebens, of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, give a medical checkup to Jack Bedow, of Owatonna, Minn., at L. P. A. convention.**

**Little People of America — dwarfs, midgets, and their families — listen to a speaker at the organization's 14th annual convention in Hillside.**

Tribune photos by Michael Budrys

**President Joe Alexander, like most L. P. A. speakers, needs a special platform to reach the podium.**

At LPA meetings, members talk about how to get clothes that fit, how to manage driving a car, what kinds of special equipment help, what they should tell their children about short stature. They also have an unusual opportunity to learn more about their particular medical problems and the genetic reasons for them.

The Little People organization has developed a close working relationship with specialists in various aspects of short stature at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Eight of these physicians, headed by Dr. Victor McKusick, are attending the LPA convention, both to study the Little People and to offer them a variety of medical help and genetic information — not only at the meeting but at the Baltimore medical center.

"There are at least a dozen types of short stature represented among the Little People," Dr. McKusick told a convention audience. The most common form is achondroplasia, an inherited disorder which involves not only short stature but a disproportioned body.

An individual with achondroplasia — commonly called a dwarf — typically has a head that is somewhat larger than usual, with a wide forehead, button-shaped nose and a lower jaw that juts forward slightly.

A dwarf's trunk is normal in size, but his spinal column may be unusually narrow and curvatures are common. He may have lordosis in the lower part of his back, giving him a characteristic posture. Some dwarfs need treatment with braces and even surgery for these difficulties.

The legs of a dwarf are extremely short and stumpy-looking. Bowing is common and may increase as he reaches the teen-age and adult years. His feet are near-normal in size, but may have some degree of clubfoot.

What goes wrong with normal patterns of growth to produce achondroplasia? The condition is inherited and is caused by a single, defective, dominant gene. This means that if one parent is an achondroplastic dwarf and the other is of normal size, each of their children will have one chance in two of inheriting achondroplasia.

If two individuals with achondroplasia marry, chances are three out of four that each child will inherit at least one abnormal gene and have this form of dwarfism. There's only one chance in four that each youngster will be of normal size.

Many of the families at the Little People convention — a few of them including three generations of dwarfs — show these inheritance patterns quite clearly. But in other instances, an achondroplastic dwarf is born to parents who are of normal size. A new, unexplained mutation in a gene which influences growth accounts for these instances, researchers now assume.

A youngster who has achondroplasia as a result of a new mutation in a gene can pass the disorder on to his children and his descendents in the usual inheritance patterns. But his parents almost certainly will not have another dwarf child — unlike parents who are dwarfs themselves.

Several other forms of dwarfism are often misdiagnosed as achondroplasia. It's important that an accurate diagnosis be made, because some of the other disorders mimicking achondroplasia have different kinds of inheritance patterns — and require a different kind of medical treatment.

This kind of diagnostic help and genetic counseling is offered to Little People by the Johns Hopkins researchers.

Not all of the Little People have disproportionate bodies. Many are normally proportioned, but simply unusually small in size. They are commonly called midgets, or pituitary dwarfs, and usually have a condition called hypopituitarism.

Hypopituitarism is caused by a lack of normal functioning of the pituitary gland, a small organ located at the base of the brain in the center of the head, which secretes human growth hormone and other essential substances. But this broad classification includes several different medical conditions, with different inheritance patterns and different treatment needs.

Some midgets do not mature sexually, because their pituitary gland does not produce the necessary hormones. They continue to look unusually young even when they are in their 20's and 30's and are not able to have children.

1973

# GENETIC COUNSELING

## *When Defects 'Run in Family'*

BY JUDI MODIE

They called it "the family curse."

Those afflicted became closet cases, rarely venturing beyond the front porch until the day they were carried from the house for the last time.

Gossip never specified what was wrong. One only knew that Aunt Sarah "had fits" or that the Bakers' youngest boy "wasn't quite right, somehow."

Townspeople, for lack of facts, made up stories about these distorted human beings. Some, like Boo Radley of "To Kill a Mockingbird," became legends in their time.

Genetic disorders — those inherited ailments that "run in the family" — are nothing new.

But nowadays, Dr. Judith Hall pointed out, "we don't just put these babies with problems out on the rocks to die. We try to buy time in hopes that we'll find a way to give them a chance at a normal life."

Dr. Hall specializes in medical genetics at Children's Orthopedic Hospital and Medical Center and University Hospital. She is concerned with finding "cures" and in preventing the recurrance of a condition.

She explained, "We want to give families an opportunity to have a normal child, and that means stopping a pregnancy as well as preventing a pregnancy from beginning in the first place."

To do so, she believes, "we must educate people so they can have a child by choice, not by default. Where should it begin? In the schools, even as young as junior high."

Dr. Hall said genetic counseling could be a start. At the same time, she admitted that such counseling usually begins after the fact: the birth of a child with a genetic defect.

"People come in then, after working themselves up to it. At this point, they've usually overguessed how bad the situation is.

"They often believe they never could have a normal child," she said.

The first step in genetic counseling is to confirm the diagnosis.

"Otherwise, the family might assume wrongly that it could happen again," Dr. Hall said.

"It would be too bad if a couple decided not to have children when the defect is the type that occurs only once.

"When I'm sure of the diagnosis, I can tell them that, if they've had a rubella baby, it won't happen again because it isn't something that runs in the family. A woman can have rubella (German measles) only once so she needs to worry about it only once."

*GENETIC COUNSELING seeks "to give families an opportunity to have a normal child, and that means stopping a pregnancy as well as preventing a pregnancy from beginning in the first place."*

Dr. Hall presents the facts "in an impartial way, telling the family about therapy available for their problem, the research being done, how their children fit in.

"My news is not always good news but most often they're already prepared for the worst. The next step is for them to decide what to do.

"The family has to search their own feelings to see the kind of things they can live with," Dr. Hall said. "Sometimes they'll ask 'what would you do?' and I tell them.

"Personally, I could tolerate a lot of congenital malformation if the child has a normal mentality. But that's just me. I can't and won't dictate what they should do."

Dr. Hall may reassure parents that diagnosing doesn't mean just abortion. "They may choose to go ahead with a pregnancy.

"But there are some things I wouldn't wish on a baby. And they may feel the same way."

Dr. Hall believes society shouldn't forbid reproduction to people who run the risk of a recurring genetic disorder.

"But, yes, I think eventually society will insist that these people not have children."

Having a defective baby may serve an important purpose, according to Dr. Hall.

"By studying these children, we can learn what causes the defect. And maybe we can find a cure or treatment for the disorder. I'm not saying you should go ahead and have a baby who's bound to be defective, but look at sickle cell anemia."

Dr. Hall said, "There is a strenuous effort now to treat sickle cell anemia. I am convinced there will be significant therapy in 20 years.

"Remember the risk to a baby born of a mother with the Rh factor? Ten years ago it was one of the worst birth defects we faced. Now, for all practical purposes, it is cured, thanks to innoculations of RhoGam."

Preventive medicine will become more and more important, Dr. Hall said, and prenatal examinations of babies will become standard procedure.

Already there is amniocentesis, a procedure where amniotic fluid is withdrawn from the pregnant uterus and studied to determine if conditions exist for birth defects.

That procedure, for example, can yield the information that the child has faulty chromosomes and will be born with Down's syndrome, or mongolism.

Then there is the fetuscope, an instrument which will permit doctors to look at the baby while it's in the uterus.

Dr. Hall said this instrument, which is in the experimental stage, will enable the physician to diagnose structural defects while there still is time to do something about it.

That "something," however, may raise ethical and moral questions, she said.

"Are we right to abort? How should we judge which children we'll keep alive? In the cave man days, if you were nearsighted, you got killed by bears. But now being nearsighted is a common, correctable defect."

Dr. Hall pointed out, "The same could be true in the future. What is a disadvantage now may be an advantage later. So about all you can do is deal with how bad things are now and hope some kind of breakthrough may be made."

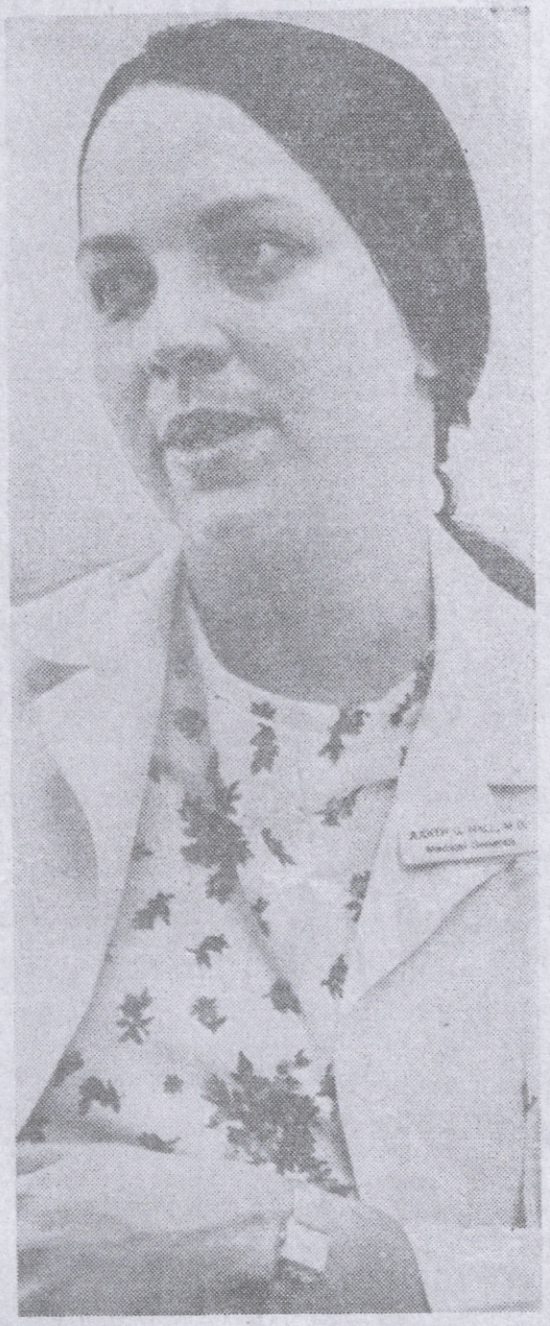
In the meantime, she hails medical advances which enable physicians to determine who carries the defective gene for certain diseases.

"It's possible now to diagnose about 70 per cent accurately whether a woman is a carrier for muscular dystrophy, for example. And we can do a blood test to see whether the sister of a boy with muscular dystrophy is a carrier."

Dr. Hall said, "We hope in the future we'll be able to test the blood of children whose brother or sister has cystic fibrosis to see if they're carriers. Then we can suggest they not have children. That definitely is in the offing.

"Again, there is the question of abortion, if she chooses to have another pregnancy," Dr. Hall explained, "or simply not having another child, if she can't live with abortion.

"The choice still remains with her and her husband — and not with me."



—*P-I Photo by Howard Staples*

DR. JUDITH HALL, MEDICAL GENETICIST

Her concern: defects that run in families

***TOMORROW: Two families talk about genetic disorders that have changed their lives.***

# GENETIC COUNSELING

# *The Haunting Question Is 'Would You Abort Me?'*

1973

—P-I Photo by Tom Brownell

DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS A MD CARRIER

Mrs. Nels Bjugen won't have more children

BY JUDI MODIE

"Would you abort me?"

It is a question that haunts many who suffer a genetic disorder, particularly those victims of defects which distort the body, but not the mind.

They look for answers in genetic counseling, from doctors who can tell them why they are as they are and what the future holds for them and their children.

Many are anxious to survive, to lead normal lives and to reproduce if possible. A few sentence themselves to life in a self-made prison, recluses from the real world.

Dr. Judith Hall, a medical geneticist, meets mostly the first kind in her work at Children's Orthopedic Hospital and Medical Center and University Hospital.

"They're fantastic," she says. "They meet misunderstanding calmly and sensibly, and often with a sense of humor. You admire their courage in a world that can be cruel and insensitive."

She was speaking in general about victims of genetic disorders such as muscular dystrophy, hemophilia and dwarfism, but she said that attitude is most obvious with the Little People.

These are persons who suffer one of the 70 to 80 types of short stature, secondary to abnormal bone growth. Each type has its own set of complications, which may range from a tendency towards arthritis to poor dental structure.

Dr. Hall said these individuals "have a zest for life that you wouldn't believe. Those I've dealt with (as adviser to the lo-

ever, that many doctors would say it's unthinkable for short-stature people to try for a baby of their own.

"I say it's not our role to make decisions for other people but to inform them of medical facts and to help guide them."

Barbara and Jack Spraker of Tacoma are achondroplastic dwarfs, the most common type of disproportionate short stature. They've been married 16 months and, until recently, were unsure about having a family.

After talking with Dr. Hall, they've decided they want to have their own baby.

Spraker explained, "We wondered if we could even

## *'We Know Our Chances, We're Not Going Into It Blind'*

dream about having a family. Getting the facts has made us feel more comfortable. Now we can be prepared.

"I think we realize what may happen. We're not going into it blind. We know what our chances are to have another Little Person and we don't mind."

His wife chimed in, "In fact, we'd prefer a short stature child. Who better than we can understand

dwarfed" and won't survive infancy.

Mrs. Spraker said, "We're willing to risk those odds. After all, there are other hereditary conditions more physically limiting than short stature."

She pointed out that she and her husband are able to enjoy hobbies such as her ceramics and his hunting, fishing and shooting pool.

"We really don't feel handicapped," she said. "If I had to have anything, thank God it's this."

There are problems: Not being able to reach the top shelves at the grocery store, having to use foot extensions to drive a car, the hassle of adapting clothes to fit.

According to Spraker, "We know were're a minority. We don't picket and we don't want the world to change just for us. What we do want is to be able to cope with things as they are.

"The public, however, needs to be more aware of the problems Little People face. Then maybe they won't build stairs so long or make it so difficult to get a job.

"I grew up thinking the only place for me was in a circus. Now I'm finding out I can do the same things as other people.

His wife said, "People don't think of us as freaks any more. But they still treat us as if we are children, rather than mature adults."

There are those who stare, the uneducated who tease and make fun of them. But when that happens, the Sprakers "go home and laugh about it."

Helping them to adjust is the Little People of America (LPA), an organization which now boasts members from all over the United States.

The Sprakers met at the LPA's national convention in Atlanta, Ga., two years ago. They wouldn't miss this year's gathering in

BARBARA AND JACK SPRAKER DECIDED TO START A FAMILY

A 50 per cent chance that their child also will be dwarfed

to short-stature people. Dr. Hall pointed out, "It helps to find out you're not the only person in the world with this kind of dwarfism or that kind of muscular dystrophy."

Mrs. Nels Bjugen of Tacoma never had seen the type of muscular dystrophy her uncles had. Nor was she aware, before she bore three sons, that she was a carrier of the defect.

Mrs. Bjugen said, "It wasn't so bad for my uncles and I wanted to have children so much that I decided to go ahead. I didn't realize that some who have the disease die early, because none of my relatives did."

She reasoned that if any of her children were victims of the disease, they probably would have stopped anyway," she said, "but I don't want to take the chance."

form of muscular dystrophy which has plagued Mrs. Bjugen's family. Russel, 8, is not affected.

When her sons developed the disease, Mrs. Bjugen learned through genetic counseling that the more children she has, the better chance they have of being MD victims.

Although she would like to have another baby, she has decided not to. "I probably would have

Her sons' children won't be affected but, if they have daughters, the girls could become carriers. Mrs. Bjugen says she'll tell them all she knows about their kind of muscu-

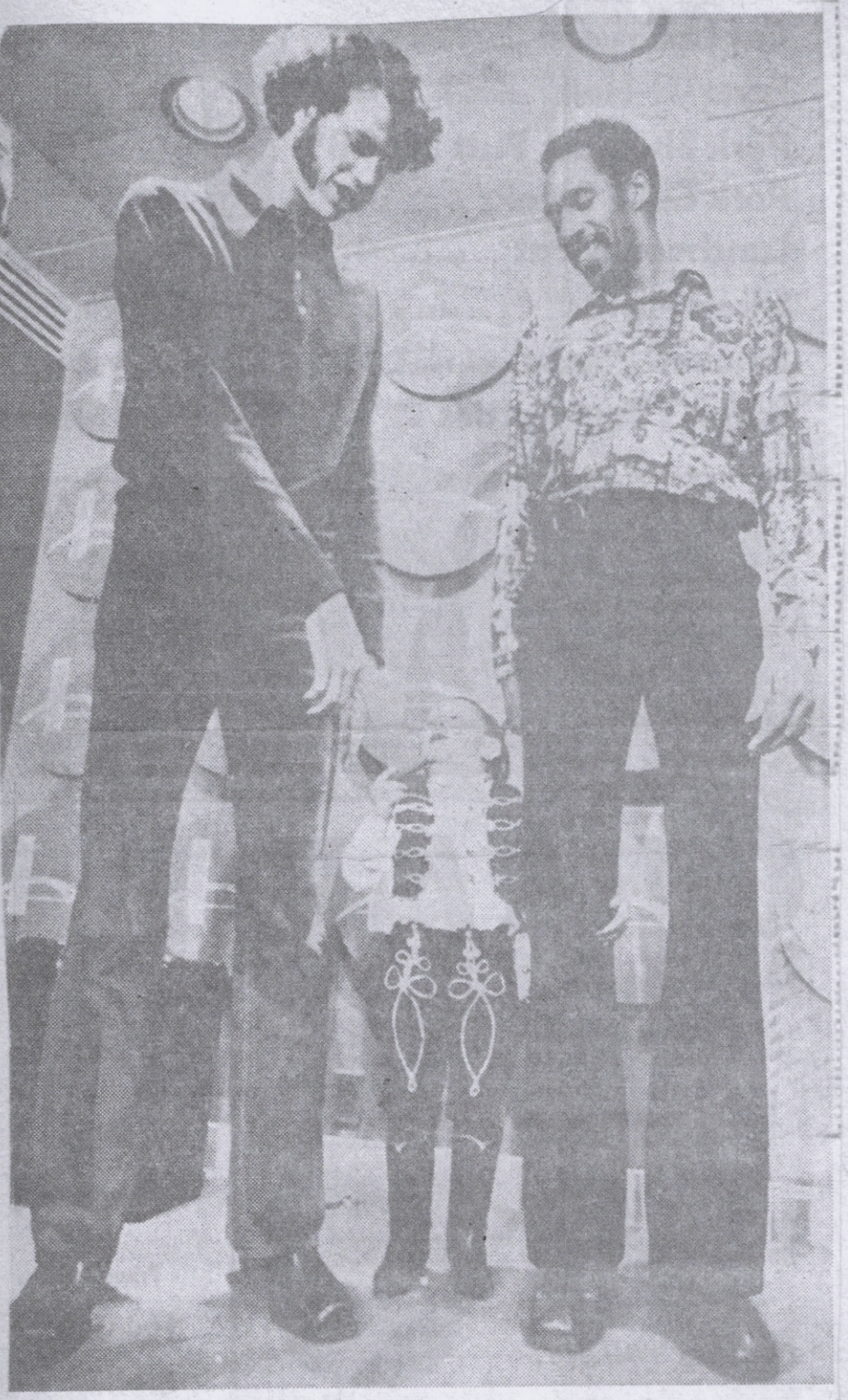
anyone else can do, if they try. They may not do it as well but I don't believe in babying them.

"I don't really see where they're going to have any problems but, if something does come up, I'll see that they get the right kind of counseling."

She is grateful to Dr. Hall for her help in teaching about the disease. "I'd recommend genetic counseling to anyone who even has a slight indication of a hereditary problem.

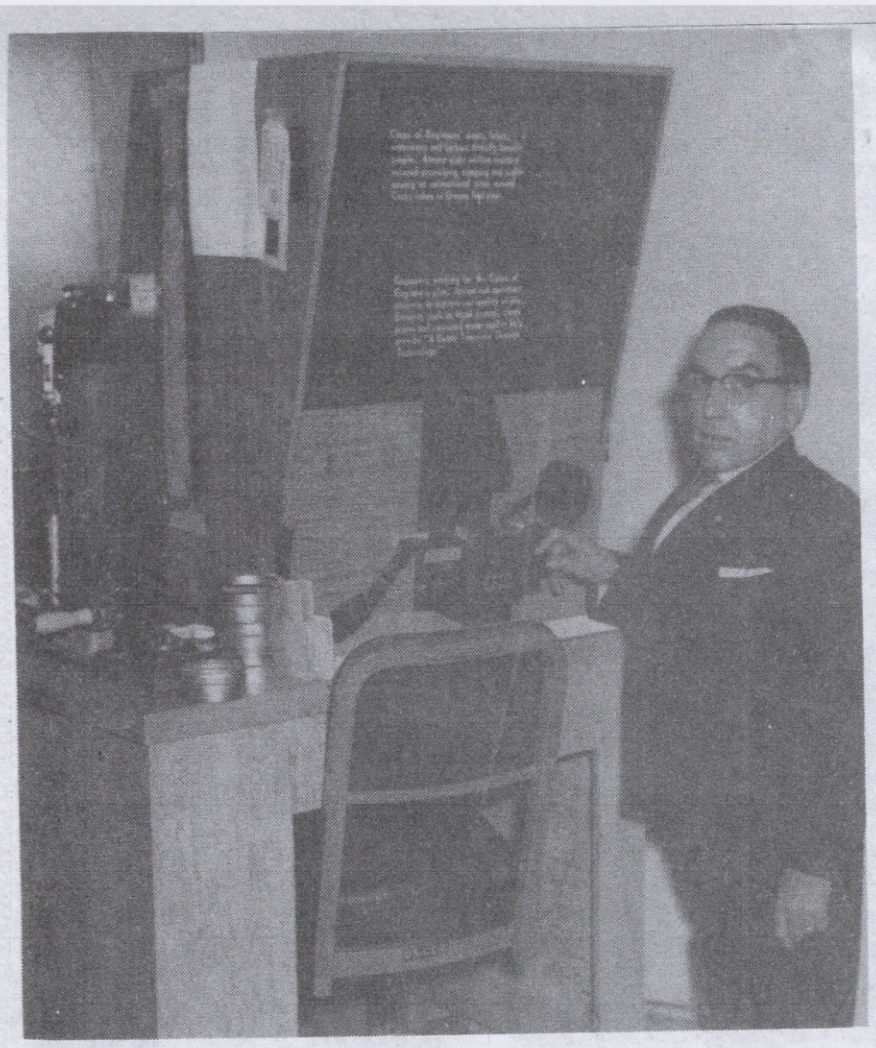
"At least, you know better what your chances are, for a normal life even if there is no cure.

"Would I have opted for girl children if I had known I was a carrier? I really don't know. I love



## A Mite Among the Mighty

THINGS WERE REALLY looking up for Mihaly Mezaros, 34, who at 33 inches tall is believed to be the world's smallest man, as he stood between two New York Knicks basketball players. At left is John Gianelli, left, 6-10, and right is Harthorne Wingo, 6-8. Mezaros arrived Monday night from Budapest to join the Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey Circus, which opened yesterday at Madison Square Garden. — AP Photo.



## *Outstanding employe*

Wallace Brooks, of 6846 SW 55th, has been named for national honors as Department of the Army Handicapped Employe of the Year for 1971. He will receive an award in the office of the Secretary of the Army in Washington D.C., April 5. Brooks is Portland U.S. Army Engineer District Engineering Service Branch Chief.

*33 inches tall at 14*

# Small boy may grow again

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP) — "I want to be 5 feet tall, like my dad—then I would be as tall as everybody in my family," says Sergio Pacheco, a 14-year-old boy who hasn't grown since he was 3.

A group of medical experts who have examined Sergio say they think they can end the strange problem that afflicts him.

The product of normal-sized parents in the Mexican border city of Tijuana, he is a happy and sports-minded boy with the body and bone structure of a 3-year-old. Although he is 33 inches tall and weighs less than 40 pounds, his mental development has kept pace with his age.

In April, Sergio walked into the Project Concern Hospital run by U.S. doctor-volunteers in Tijuana. He has been under study since.

Dr. Maurice Kogut of the Los Angeles Children's Hospital said Sergio possesses the growth hormones needed to convert protein into growth, but something in his tissue system prevents them from working.

The hormones normally are reduced or missing in growth problems, but Kogut told a news conference Friday: "Sergio's inability to grow seems to go beyond this. We think his system would keep even injections of growth hormones from working to help him."

Kogut prescribed male hormone drugs over at least the next 10 years. Meanwhile, samples of Sergio's blood were sent to researchers in St. Louis, Los Angeles and other cities.

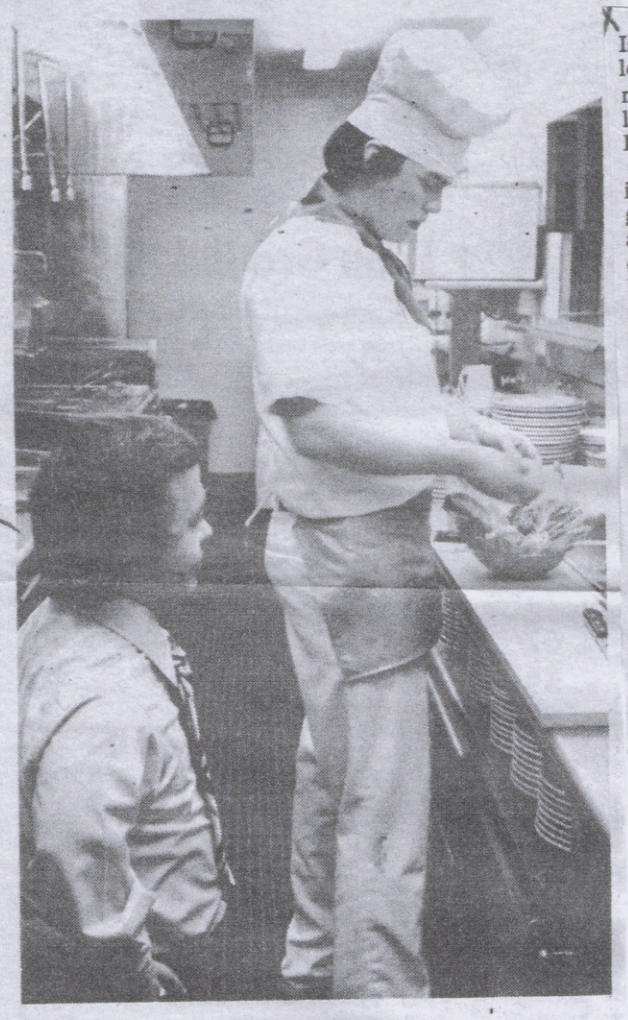
"I thought about being a soccer player, but then I met some lawyers in Tijuana and now I want to be a lawyer," he said.

The boy that stays small

1973

# Come along with me

BY MARILYN BROWN MARLATT



JOHN BECKMAN, MANAGER of the new Denny's, watches as cook Doug Jacobs prepares one of the restaurant's popular salads.

Only open a month, Mercer Island's Denny's is already a leader in that chain's restaurants, under the leadership of manager, John Beckman, 34.

John has a master's degree in psychology. Shortly before getting his degree, five years ago, "a position with Denny's opened up." "I had always been attracted to the restaurant business, one way or another, and was anxious to give it a try," says John.

"I'm very grateful to Denny's for giving me the break that I needed. I was the first dwarf they had ever hired, and, frankly, they were taking a chance. I've found them to be a terrific company to work for. They prove time and again that they really care about the welfare of their employees.

"Most of our help is from the Island. The response to our help wanted ads was overwhelming. We had over 500 well qualified people applying for our 75 positions. Our orientation was extremely successful because of the high caliber of the personnel."

John's background in psychology has not been for naught, for he finds that his young charges like to come to him with their problems. "I'm always ready to listen," he adds.

When the interview was coming to a close, I asked John, a Kingsgate resident, if he would be offended by my asking him about his dwarfism. John is 4'4". He answered in a casual manner, "I probably would have been more offended if you didn't."

He was born the fourth child of tall parents. His two brothers are 6'4" and 6'2". His sister is 5'10". The son of a Methodist minister, he says, "I had a very normal childhood and was never pampered or coddled. I had part-time jobs in high school and college. My first was on a cleanup detail in a restaurant parking lot.

"Truthfully, I can't ever recall feeling sorry for myself or being bitter. I firmly believe that there is a purpose for everything in this life."

He's willing to share his philosophy that "one can either fight a handicap or make it work for him." "A person who is somewhat different from the average should educate himself to be the best qualified, for whatever role he seeks in life. It's self-defeating to use a handicap as an excuse for discrimination." says John. I don't really consider myself handicapped, although as a dwarf, I probably fit the definition."

"It's interesting to note," John goes on," that although dwarfs make up only a small fraction of one percent of the population, the majority are well educated and in management positions. I was fortunate to have parents who gave me lots of love and stressed the value of education. And now I'm blessed with another wonderful family.

John speaks affectionately of his wife JoAnne who is normal size. My in-laws were quite apprehensive at first about their daughter's choice of a mate, but in time, they came around. After we were married, Jo Anne and I anguished over the decision of starting a family and frankly, I was scared. But we decided that because we were so much in love and wanted children badly, we should go ahead. Eric, 8, and Angelina, 5, are very special children to us. They are really tuned in to people's feelings. Neither one of them would knowingly hurt another person.

"For example," John goes on, "recently, my son (Eric is now taller than his dad) had a soccer awards banquet coming up and I asked him if he wanted me to come because none of the other boys had ever seen me before. He said, 'Sure, Dad, I want you to come.'

'Are you really sure?' I asked. Very slowly, Eric said "Would it hurt your feelings, Daddy, if I said I didn't know?"

I wanted it to be his decision. He finally asked me to come and it was a beautiful evening. No problems whatsoever. I'm very proud of both my children."

I try to be aware of our customers' children's feelings. I realize that I'm probably the first small adult they've seen. I try to greet them, to show them that I walk and talk like everyone else and to put them at ease."